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FROM GORING HOUSE
TO
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

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[From "Buckingham Palace," by H. Clifford-Smit.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE: A VIEW FROM THE GARDEN

Frontispiece]



[Photo: Speaight

THEIR MAJESTIES KING GEORGE VI AND QUEEN ELIZABETH



FROM
GORING HOUSE
TO
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

*Our Royal Residence from
the Earliest Times and the Famous
People connected with it*

BY
O. G. GORING

1937
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O. G. G.

LONDON, 1937.

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GORING HOUSE

CHAPTER I

THE MANOR OF EIA, 1066-1535

IN so far as England is concerned, the history of the ownership of land on a large scale can be traced through five distinct periods.

Firstly, we find the old Anglo-Saxon landowners, many of whom existed at the time of the compilation of the "Domesday Book" in 1086, and some of whose families remain to-day. Then we come to the landed-estate owners, created by the Norman Conquest, and still in possession of a quantity of those same lands acquired about that time. Thirdly, we find the "new order of things" as decided by that so-called "Merry Monarch" who brought about the Dissolution of the Monasteries and broke the Papal power in England between 1532 and 1539. Fourthly, the reshuffling of landed properties under the Stuarts (James I, Charles I, and Charles II) from the large estates left over in many cases from Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth and not re-assigned at that time; and fifthly, the decline of ownership which appears to have commenced soon after the passing of heavy "Death Duty" obligations imposed by the State and dating—in any serious proportions—from 1920.

The particular histories of all the great land-

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owning families of England were influenced in a greater or lesser degree by the determining dates—1066, 1535, *circa* 1625, and 1920. Even as to-day our big landowners are disposing of property to pay off “death duties” on heavily burdened estates—“confiscation by the Government for the Good of the People”—so in 1625 many of these same landowners acquired stretches of their present domains as a result of the wholesale confiscation by a King of monastic lands some year previously “for the Good of the Crown and the People.”

The “Domesday Book” makes reference to a Manor of Eia, bounded on the south by the river Thames, on the west by the river Westbourne, on the east by the river Tybourne, and to the north by the Roman road from Bath to London on a line approximately now determined by the Bayswater Road, Marble Arch, and Oxford Street.

The Manor of Eia was the property of the Abbots of Westminster, and formed part of the Westminster monastic domains which stretched for a considerable distance.

Extraordinary to relate, this Manor of Eia has kept to its original boundaries, with only slight exceptions, for over 850 years, and at this present day, despite the growth of the immense City of London, actually forms part of “the Grosvenor Estate” (combined Grosvenor and Ebury Estates), with the exception of those portions which now comprise Hyde Park and Buckingham Palace. The estate is still bounded on the north by the Portman

Estate (north of Oxford Street, Portman Square, Baker Street, etc.), to the north-east by Crown property, to the south by the Thames, to the south-east by Westminster Abbey, Westminster School Buildings, Whitehall, and St. James's Park, and to the west by the Cadogan Estate and Hyde Park.

Although few Londoners know it, the rivers Tybourne and Westbourne still discharge their waters into the river Thames—which may to some extent account for this definite survival of the boundaries.

It is natural, also, that as time has gone by, litigation has several times featured with regard to certain sections of the estate—notably in the case of Goring House, and the extraordinary sequence of events connected with both Goring House and Arlington House.

From fields, the northern part of the estate became fairly well covered with houses by 1814, but south of Buckingham Palace, fields and swamps still formed the major part of Vauxhall, Grosvenor Road, and Millbank.

For local colour of bygone times we must therefore picture a series of normal English fields bounded by hedges and surmounted by Neyte Manor House—in rather low-lying ground—which lay towards the river Thames, with Ebury Farm a little to the north-west. From a detailed map of 1614 we learn that there were actually 44 fields on the northern boundary section—more or less north of Buckingham Palace to-day—and 18 fields on the southern, or Neyte House, section, which represents the Belgravia area. No account is taken of Goring House or the Mulberry Gardens, of which more anon.

Across this property several roads are shown, the

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principal of which are : " The way from Tybourne to London " (Oxford Street) ; " The way from Knight Bridge to London and West Minster " (Knightsbridge, Piccadilly, and a road that ran parallel to the present Constitution Hill) ; " The Highway from Ossolstone to Tybourne " (Park Lane to Hyde Park Corner) ; " Abbotsbridge " (between Vauxhall Bridge Road and Grosvenor Road and in those days a swamp part of the year), and a " Righte of Waye " from near the " Knight Bridge to St. James Parke " (Knightsbridge across Buckingham Palace grounds to the Victoria Memorial).

To get an idea of these boundaries to-day, we will take a walk and actually follow the courses of the Tybourne and the Westbourne through modern London.

Along the Bayswater Road (northern boundary of the estate) we note the Marlborough Gate leading into Hyde Park from the north. This was the corner point of the old Manor of Eia to the north-west.

The Westbourne enters the Park in Kensington Gardens, emerging in the Italian Gardens, and thus into what is commonly called the Serpentine.

This is about the river's only appearance in public on its way to the Thames.

At the end of the Serpentine it is diverted under Rotten Row, and flows under Albert Gate—the one-time " Knight Bridge " down the east side of Lowndes Square, under Lowndes Street, across Pont Street, up the east side of Little Cadogan Place, across Cliveden Place, past the back of the Court Theatre, under Sloane Square (Underground) Station, through Holbein Place (Mews), across the

Pimlico Road, and under the Chelsea Barracks, to discharge in the Thames at Chelsea Bridge.

The Tybourne, which marks the eastern boundary of the Manor, runs almost parallel to the Westbourne.

Return to the Marlborough Gate, and walk along the Bayswater Road to Marble Arch, which is the approximate position of the old Tyburn Gallows, so famous as the rendezvous of the hangman with his unhappy victim.

A few hundred yards down Oxford Street, just past Selfridge's Stores, we reach Davies Street on our right. We have now traversed the northern boundary of the Manor and reached the north-east corner.

The Tybourne—unknown to the teeming thousands who are so anxious for the safety of their lives in this mechanically regulated thoroughfare—leaves Stratford Place (named after Stratford House, now the residence of the Earl of Derby), and ambles peacefully under the hustle and bustle of Oxford Street into Davies Street, down South Molton Street, across Brook Street, down Avery Row, across Grosvenor Street, under Bloomfield Place into Bruton Place, across Bruton Street, round the back of South Bruton Mews, to the bottom of Hay Hill (virtually between Bond Street and Berkeley Square). Here it traverses the gardens of Lansdowne House (rebuilt in 1935 with a block of flats known as Lansdowne Court), and proceeds across Little Clarges Street, Curzon Street, and along Half Moon Street.

Crossing Whitehorse Street, it turns south, emerging into Piccadilly between Whitehorse Street and Brick Street, whence it crosses Piccadilly and

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under its old pasturage of the Green Park, to the site of Buckingham Palace.

Here it most probably helps to perform two useful functions : it keeps the artificial lake in Buckingham Palace Gardens nice and fresh, and fills the lake in St. James's Park : for we are told that somewhere under the present Palace the river divided—one channel going to drive a mill at Westminster, while the main stream continued across Buckingham Palace Road, under Palace Street, along one side of the Stag Brewery, across Brewer Street and Victoria Street (near the Victoria Palace Theatre), along the left side of the Vauxhall Bridge Road for about 200 yards, and finally south-west along Tachbrook Street to the Thames.

How marvellous our City of London is! We plan our roads, build our houses, leave our open spaces, arrange our lakes, and harness our rivers.

Imagine the work, the scheming, and the enterprise in planning the water requirements and estimating flood dangers in a big city. Yet those who accomplish these things for our advancement so often pass unknown.

Here we have two rivers in question, harnessed, diverted, used for landscape purposes in parks, carried in and out between Underground Railways, yet entirely unseen by the public at large except at well-defined points, but otherwise only shown on survey maps, sewer plans, and underground systems.

I do not suppose the average Londoner realizes to-day that Hampstead and Highgate are built on a ridge of hills. Houses, easy gradients, and powerful

motor-cars make us forget hills, unless we are one of those few fortunate ones who happen to enjoy a view over London from a homely vantage-point. But having realized the existence of this ridge of hills, does one also realize that the ridge is exactly like any other ridge of hills in its fulfilment of the laws of the universe? And don't ridges of hills form watersheds from which all rivers and streams must start?

Your passing interest in Hampstead and Highgate surely stopped short long before this stage. Yet those two districts have caused as much trouble as any to the town-planning authorities during the last three hundred years.

Time was—and still is normally—when rivers were “assisted” on their courses through towns by the simple expedient of reinforced walls and banks.

But literally to “conduct” rivers and enclose them in sewer ducts, run them on varying levels where feasible, twist them in and out between railway tunnels, and other unusual feats, surely calls for some knowledge and skill—and some acknowledgement to those men who do these things and carry out their work so successfully.

Perchance your eye has seen that ugly “bridge” effect in Sloane Square Underground Station—so low that the train looks as though it will leave the roofs of its carriages behind? Your natural thought is, “Why don't those silly Underground engineers change these levels, for an accident is sure to happen one day?”

They can't, for the “bridge” effect is a suspended conduit carrying our friend the Westbourne from

GORING HOUSE

the Serpentine along the boundary of our ancient Manor of Eia, on its way to the Thames and the open sea.

And again, without these two rivers which have so successfully determined the approximate size of an estate all these hundreds of years, we could not easily get our lakes in St. James's Park and Buckingham Palace, quite apart from the Serpentine itself.

And now, back again to the Manor of Eia. We find that the estate totalled roughly 1,100 acres, of which about 500 were situated north of Piccadilly and 600 to the south. All this land the Crown—in the person of Henry VIII—took from the Abbots of Westminster between 1532 and 1539 on the Dissolution of the Smaller and Greater Monasteries.

It is doubtful if the southern part of the lands thus confiscated was of much value, for we have records belonging to the Thames Conservancy Board showing the "flood areas" of those days; amongst which the Manor of Ebury and the Manor of Neyte are most prominent.

On a map issued in 1614, now amongst the Grosvenor Estate Archives, the southern end of the property near the Thames shows fields separated by double dotted lines indicating ditches quite probably subject to flooding, while those fields separated by single lines north of Buckingham Palace denote hedgerows.

Flooding in some years must have been very serious, according to chronicles that are handed down.

Besant says that this great marsh covered all the

THE MANOR OF EIA, 1066-1535

land known later as St. James's Park,¹ Tothill Fields, Victoria, Earl's Court, and part of Chelsea.

On the other bank the marsh extended from Rotherhithe, over Bermondsey, Southwark, Lambeth, Vauxhall, and part of Battersea.

The derivation of names has an interest at this juncture, and in passing one might note that places which here and there rose above the flood-levels were called islands, or "ea." Thus we have Bermonds'ea—the Isle of Bermond; Chelsea—the Isle of Shingle (Chesil); Batters ea²—probably the Isle of Batriches (or Patrick's Isle); while other names not in the district with which this book deals are Putney, Winchilsea, Eley, and towns of the same nature at one time known to have been surrounded by swamps and marshes in very bad weather.

At La Neyte were held the Manorial Courts for the whole of the Manor of Eia. These Courts were an admixture of an estate office and the Law Administration—where the Abbot's Steward dispensed justice for better or for worse to those who wanted it, or were accused of crime.

In those early days, although certain common laws existed, England had few organized legal courts with the system of Assizes and Itinerant Justices as we know them to-day. Police-courts and Magistrates' Courts were unknown. Rather, the Lord of the Manor

¹ It seems possible that part of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, once formed part of St. James's Park for a short time—and would thus have been well within the flood areas.

² Early charter of 693 gives Batriches Eye; some say Peter's eye; but surely, to my mind, Batriches Eye is Patrick's Eye, or the Isle of Patrick.

Wherever records survive, we find detailed comments of the work thus entailed—the scouring of ditches, the growing of hemp and flax, the pruning of willows, the cutting of stubble for covering the walls (on somewhat the same system as thatching), the repair of roads, bridges, and fords, the canvassing of windmills,¹ the purchase and sowing of seeds for the manor gardens, the laying out of turf, the very summary justice dealt out to poachers, and even the trials for attempted murders.

In these early times La Neyte formed the most interesting part of the Manor of Eia, for it seems to have been used by king and clergy alike, holding, as it did, a natural fortress position surrounded by swampy ground liable to floods, yet with one main road from Westminster Abbey, about a mile away. At certain times it could also be approached by the river, and was then most probably cut off from the road by swamps.

It is suggested that there was at one time a "Village of Eia," for in 1234 there is an old record of "Henry de Belegrove and Robert de Boulogne and Ascelina his wife" dealing with 2½ acres in Eya. Be this as it may, the name Belegrove is interesting, for the modern Estate of Eia—or Westminster—has Belgravia as one of its chief component parts.

The Belgrave family who gave the modern name of Belgravia, however, forms part of the Grosvenor family, and only came into these parts some hundreds of years later. The actual site of the village of Eia, if it existed, does not seem to be accurately

¹ Older type of windmill, with skeleton arms covered with stretched canvas on the principle of a sailing-ship.

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known, but it seems possible that it may have been near Knightsbridge, which in turn is adjoining the present Belgrave Square.

The Manor of Ebury, the largest and richest part of the Manor of Eia, dates from about the time of Edward I, when we find Ebury Grange (spelt Eyebery) as the residence of a bailiff on the Eia Estates owing tenure to the Manor, and therefore to the Abbots of Westminster. Judging by present maps, the farm-house stood between the present Ebury Street (south end) and Buckingham Palace Road. Ebury Street of to-day was in all probability a cart-track between fields, leading to outbuildings from the "Right of Way" from the Knight Bridge to St. James's Park—or from the present grounds of Buckingham Palace in the same position and direction as it does now.

England is full of these erstwhile "rights of way." They exist on every big estate, and by usage handed down by generations until it has become law, they must be closed for one day in each year; or the landlord, if challenged, forfeits his right to enclose them after they have been used by members of the public for 14 consecutive years. It is indeed surprising how soon such a stretch of time can pass, and how many "rights of way" have turned into what are now our main streets in almost every town or city.

Before the Dissolution of the Monasteries, we find little mention of Ebury, except that Abbot Islip rented it in 1518 for 32 years at £21 per annum.

CHAPTER II

DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES, 1535

THE Manor of Eia continued its existence as Church property until the second great change amongst the land-owning classes took place—the Dissolution of the Monasteries between 1532 and 1539.

Henry VIII has marked his name on the pages of history by two somewhat opposite achievements : he had six legal wives—which is a record for this country—and is responsible for the break away from Rome.

In a sense, both these historical facts arise out of the same motive ; or, rather, our school history books are inclined to teach us that they do.

Although many children were born by Katharine of Aragon to Henry VIII, only one lived—and that a delicate girl, who later became Queen Mary.

Trouble with the succession to the throne was bound to follow. Finding that Katharine of Aragon seemed inclined to live too long, Henry at last decided to attempt a divorce—a very difficult matter in Catholic England, for the Papal See held sway and ruled the religious doctrines of the English people.

Appeals to the Pope having failed, the obvious step was to get rid of the Pope in so far as England was concerned. Henry VIII therefore called a

Parliament in 1529. This sat, not as previous Parliaments had done, for a month or two, but for seven years, and carried out one of the greatest revolutions in English history. No doubt Henry took good care to get members elected whom he could trust ; but he need have had no fear of trusting his subjects to help him in attacking the Pope or reforming Church abuses, for in those days a large proportion of the lands of England came under the influence of the monasteries.

Through the monasteries the Church Party, as we would call politically-minded ecclesiastics to-day, more or less controlled the country. They levied local taxes and dues on the acreage and the produce of the land. They were able, by this forced allegiance between Church and peasant, to obtain control of the country-side and virtually rule large tracts of territory. Be it remembered that in these early days the universal political vote was entirely unknown, so that the majority of the people settled on the land were at the mercy of their landlords. Transport relied entirely on that worthy beast, the horse, so that few of the peasants ever strayed from their native villages.

Thus the Church, a rich and powerful organization owning almost as much land as the entire body of nobles between them, was able to dictate to the people. Furthermore, it frequently happened that repentant Catholics at their death left large tracts of land to Church and monastic institutions for absolution of their sins and for the "good of the Catholic Cause."

It seems probable, therefore, that the lands and properties of the Church were being continually increased at the expense of the Feudal Landlords. Civil Wars, which took place regularly up to the reign of Henry VII, must have very materially weighed the balance in favour of the Church ; so what could be more natural than the aims of a strong-minded monarch to break the power of the Church before the Church finally gained the upper hand ?

No doubt Henry VIII was aided in his resolution by the discontent amongst the English peasantry—for while some monasteries undoubtedly ruled their lands wisely and well, others abused their privileges in accordance with the temporal abbot in charge of each individual monastery.

Abbots and bishops receiving English appointments were often of Italian and French nationality, with little or no knowledge of English customs. In any case, their universal speech was Latin, which did not make them any the better understood by the ignorant peasants.

The internal conditions of many of the monasteries long before Henry VIII was in every way deplorable, for carefully preserved records show continual bickerings between the different denominations of monks—each in turn striving for power over its neighbour.

One might almost say that while Civil War laid waste the country politically during the time of the Plantagenets, internal strife laid waste the Church of Rome in England in the Tudor period.

As the Church gradually obtained more and more land by peaceful penetration, so the Church advisers became more and more powerful in the State—their abbots and priors controlling the numerous Church Estates becoming increasingly jealous of each other.

The Archives of Canterbury, preserved to this day, well illustrate the everlasting bickerings between the Canterbury monks and the Dover monks—to give but one example. In the case quoted, the monks of Dover had percentage rights of certain Port Dues levied on all shipping and imports. The Canterbury See therefore tried to claim Dover Priory as part of its holding, and three hundred years of unseen struggling finally resulted in Canterbury gaining the upper hand and exercising the right to appoint the Prior to Dover.

One cannot obviate the thought that monetary gain played an important part in these bickerings; for, although the monks were supposed to be “humble and lowly,” their actual status was just the opposite. So scandalous was their behaviour at times, that these early Church records often refer to minutes communicated from one See to another, reminding the holy inmates of their vows, and exhorting them to be chaste and moral in both their spiritual and temporal lives. Such reminders would hardly have been circulated without cause, and no doubt were necessary only when very incompetent men were in charge of local monastic affairs.

The ignorant people of England—who could neither read nor write—were no doubt hardly aware of the real condition of the Church at the time, but

the nobility must have understood the situation. Under a strong king, they would be quite ready to assist in throwing off the yoke of Rome, and thus increase their prospects of obtaining more land from a grateful monarch when the monastic properties were divided. At about this time, too, the military power of the Papal See was at a low ebb, and it seems possible that a considerable sum collected annually from the English peasants in the form of Dues and Absolutions was finding its way to Rome.

Apart from historical dates, therefore, one cannot help seeing that an opportune moment had arisen to show a firm hand against Rome, so that Henry VIII was a shrewd judge, both of the temper of his people and the military power of the Pope, when he decided on the Dissolution of the Monasteries, which at a different date might have occasioned war with the Papal See.

Incidentally his first excuse for an attack on the Church of Rome—Katharine of Aragon—died before the real measures were put through. Before her death, however, Henry VIII had married Anne Boleyn, by whom he had another daughter, later Queen Elizabeth.

The Lesser Monasteries were dissolved by Act of an obliging Parliament in 1532, and the Greater Monasteries soon followed in the downfall by a further Act in 1539. Which of these Acts was responsible for the handing over of the Manor of Eia by the Abbey of Westminster is not certain; but we may assume that Westminster came under the smaller Church properties, and was affected amongst the first, as subsequent dates show.

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However, even before the monastic dispute came to a head, we learn that "from the windows of Wolsey's Palace at Whitehall, Henry VIII looked west across a rural landscape." Hall wrote in 1532 :

"Ye have hearde before how the kyng had purchased the Bysshope of Yorkes Palace, which was a fayre Bysshops house, but not meete for a kyng ; wherefore the Kyng purchased all the meadows about saynct James, and all the whole house of S James, and there made a fayre mansion, and a parke, and buylded many costlye and commodious houses for great pleasure."

The house mentioned is St. James's Palace, at that time a leper hospital forming part of the Bailiwick of Saint James.

Lepers were common in England, and for as long as history relates, the citizens of London had maintained this home, situated well in the country, as a retreat for leprous women. Henry VIII turned out the leprous women and made their home into a hunting box. This hospital property was the first to be actually taken from the Manor of Eia. So far as can be ascertained, the hospital grounds were what we now call Berkeley Square and Mayfair, while "all the meadows about saynct James" would refer to St. James's Park and the Green Park as far as Knightsbridge.

With the Dissolution of the Monasteries the whole scheme changes. Lands sequestered by

DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES, 1535

Henry VIII remained nominally under the jurisdiction of the Crown until such times as they were given away to Court favourites. Hence we have one of the main reasons for the strength of Queen Elizabeth—a wise woman who used the heritage of her father in a very careful manner, and only gave away small parts of the erstwhile monastic lands. By far the greater part she kept attached to the Crown, and made grants of short-term leases in some cases, or “bailiff rights” over large estates in other instances.

The short-term lease, if granted at a low rental, was a form of compensation for services rendered, while the establishment of a bailiffship of a large estate was a lucrative post with even less responsibility. We see, therefore, that the various parts of our Manor of Eia were disposed of to many people as time went by. James I, Charles I, and Charles II, being neither wise nor steady monarchs, gave away large slices of lands which Queen Elizabeth had previously only rented, and thus were unable to control the rich landlords, who obtained power and money, which they wasted in many cases on unwise living.

So it came about that many of those upon whom James I and Charles I showered favours were able to assist the Parliamentary cause at the time of the Commonwealth, for the Crown had lost a lot of support by making courtiers independent of Court favours.

I do not intend to deal for the moment with the entire Manor of Eia, for this is really outside the

province of this book. Suffice it to give a good example of this disposal of land outright by the early Stuarts in the property of Ebury Farm.

I have already stated that Abbot Islip—the last holder of the Manor before the Dissolution—granted a lease to Richard Whasshe, from Michaelmas, 1518, for 32 years at a rental of £21.

From Michaelmas, 1543, Henry VIII granted a lease of 41 years to John Wevant and his wife, but kept back for his own purposes 20 acres to the south of the Manor of Neyte, Abbots Mead, and a field called the Calfhawe, to the east of La Neyte. Also a 15-acre meadow at Tiborne, and 40 acres of pasture on Stonehill, approximating to Hyde Park. So that virtually John Wevant got the existing site of Victoria, Pimlico, and Eaton Square for the small sum of £21 5s. 8d. per annum.

This lease had not run out before Queen Elizabeth, in 1567, granted William Gibbes a lease of Ebury Manor from 1584 for 31 years; which grant Gibbes sold to William Whasshe for £450 inside the same week.

Evidently Elizabeth was fond of forestalling the future, for, in 1585, she granted a lease of Ebury Manor to one of her grooms, Sir Thomas Knevet, from Michaelmas, 1615, for 60 years at the same rental of £21 5s. 8d.

After this we find the Manor split into two parts, and after several other entries, Sir Lionel Cranfield obtained half the property for £4,760 in 1620.

In 1623 James I sold the freehold of the Manor of Ebury under the Great Seal of England for

DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES, 1535

£1,151 15s., subject to an annual rental of £38 7s. 10d., to John Traylman and Thomas Pearson, who sold it the next day to the trustees of Sir Lionel Cranfield for £1,501 15s. 0d.—a profitable middle deal.

Cranfield, later Earl of Middlesex, sold the property three years afterwards to Hugh Awdeley, who is one of the founders of the Grosvenor Estate as we know it to-day.

One or two interesting details¹ come to light in reading over these transactions. The first is that the Grosvenor Estate to-day still pays the annual rental of £38 7s. 10d. under the freehold sale by James I to the Earl of Sandwich, whose ancestor acquired it as a fee-farm rent from Charles II. The second is that in the final sale to Hugh Awdeley, a field on the east side of the Green Park, in the neighbourhood of Piccadilly, was not included in the sale—because it had been leased to Viscount Andover, afterwards the Earl of Barkshire, for 3,000 years at a rental of 2s. 8d. per annum.

Such are the complexities of London properties.

¹ *Mary Davies and the Manor of Ebury* (Gatty).

CHAPTER III
GORING HOUSE

THE MULBERRY GARDEN, 1603-1660

WE now come to the extraordinary historical fact that Buckingham Palace is actually built partially on waste land. This really is no uncommon thing if we survey the changes of properties over several hundred years, but, in the case of Buckingham Palace, it seems rather more than usually interesting.

In the olden days, when land, even within 4 miles of the City of London, was of little value, the practice of lawyers and others was to describe approximately the extent of the lands and properties from time to time conveyed. Thus, on many large estates, when land was sold, the acreage would be correctly filled in, but boundaries were vaguely defined. Rivers also somewhat upset calculations, for generally a river-bed varied considerably according to the season of the year, and the owner would not trouble to define its exact course when conveying property, as in most cases he would be unable to assess the river's "spate," or flooding capacity—as was the case within a very short distance of Goring House.

Similarly, little heed was paid to roads. Except in a few well-defined cases, roads more or less "made themselves" through rights-of-way and cart-tracks. As these cart-tracks became more used and

GORING HOUSE

were possibly metalled in a mild way for the convenience of travellers, so the landowners on either side of these new roads planted hedges. Land being of little value, hedges may have been planted very far back, to allow an all-powerful monarch to widen his roads without the necessity for pulling down other people's hedges. Cart-tracks also got rather deep at certain times of the year when the rains were about, so local landowners appreciated the advisability of leaving plenty of space for new tracks, ditches swamping, and one thing or another.

To deal fully with the story of Goring House, which once stood on the site of Buckingham Palace, we must take many political, industrial, and geographical events into consideration. We must examine in turn the historical references to the Mulberry Garden planted by James I, the political activities of Lord George Goring and others, and the actual plan of Goring House and the Mulberry Garden as handed down to us through several generations.

Plans change, or seem to change, with almost each succeeding generation, so that charts of the time of James I are liable to have become very distorted from the viewpoint of modern London. Be it always remembered that in 1603—and indeed almost until 1820—part of the land around the present site of Buckingham Palace was country, pure and simple.

We have seen, at the beginning of the previous chapter, that Henry VIII, at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, disposed of a part of their territories by grant, or retained them as Crown lands to be given away as favours by succeeding monarchs.

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It has also been noted that Henry VIII coveted the stretch of land now known as St. James's Park, and built the present existing St. James's Palace.

His eye no doubt roamed farther afield, and at the Dissolution it seems probable that he acquired all the land at present occupied by St. James's Park, the Green Park, and Buckingham Palace grounds, quite apart from the further stretch of the Manor of Eia.

We note in subsequent history that "the Manor of Ebury," the heritage of a certain Mary Davies, and later of the Grosvenor and Ebury families, was shorn of the present park sites. All except certain parts of land now known as Buckingham Palace, which came in for considerable litigation during the times of Lord George Goring, the Duke of Arlington, and the Duchess of Grafton (1655-1687), were, however, handed down to the Grosvenor Estate of to-day.

To start with the Mulberry Garden.

It appears that during the reign of James I considerable trouble was occasioned by the discontent of the silk weavers of Spitalfields, and several delegations were arranged, by the means of mass meetings, to endeavour to obtain satisfaction from the King in the matter of the supply of silk at reasonable rates.

Silk has always been one of the staple industries of this world. The art of making silk carpets and silk tapestries and embroideries was known to the Persians, the Chinese, and Indians from the earliest times. Babylon, Damascus, Tyre, Sidon, and the Egyptian ports regularly dealt in woven silk articles.

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This form of Mediterranean export flourished even more then than it does now. In turn, Athens, Greece, Roman dependencies, Venice, and later other Italian states, took to the breeding of silkworms in order to encourage the weaving of silk for tapestries and cloths. So important was this industry to the exporting nations of those days, that in 1148 King Roger of Sicily forcibly transferred the best workmen from Thebes, Athens, and Corinth to start a royal silk monopoly at Palermo.

This silk trade gradually spread throughout Italy, until in 1523, at the sacking of Milan, the French were able to acquire the art of silk weaving, and in 1547 Francis I founded a silkworm establishment at Touraine, which subsequently spread to Avignon, Paris, and Lyons.

Queen Elizabeth was the first monarch who was called upon to interest herself in the silk business in England. At the destruction of Antwerp in 1585, a large number of silk weavers fled to this country, which at this period had to import silk in its natural state from France. No doubt with an eye on the excellent profits made by French merchants out of their silken wares, James I conceived the idea of a "home silk industry," and with this end in view he issued a licence to William Stallenge in 1608 to import mulberry seeds and young trees.

This licence was followed in 1609 by permission to plant and cultivate mulberry trees on a plot of 4 acres near the Palace of St. James's, at the corner of Watling Street, and the care of this concession was again entrusted to William Stallenge.

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Two later maps of the Goring Estate, dated 1640 and 1675, show the Mulberry Garden to have been located approximately on part of the present Buckingham Palace Grounds, running along the side of what is now Constitution Hill to Hyde Park Corner. This would be north by west of Goring House.

The efforts to establish a raw material department as a royal monopoly for the supply of silk seems to have been somewhat costly. We read of a first payment from the King's Exchequer of £100 to Stallenge for the planting of trees, seeds, and the nourishing of silkworms.

By the end of 1609 a further £935 had been paid to Stallenge in regard to the equipping of the Mulberry Garden of 4 acres. For this sum the ground was prepared and properly enclosed with a wall.

In 1611 £258 was paid to William Stallenge for his charge of silkworms and for his purchase of mulberry leaves, sweet wood, and other necessities.

This sum is over and above the £120 per annum grant.

Again, in 1613 a further sum of £154 10s. 11d. is mentioned as being paid to Stallenge for silkworm cultivation. This total of nearly £1,450 most probably does not constitute all the moneys which went from the King's Exchequer, but it does, indeed, give a fair idea of the efforts made to create a silk industry for the weavers of Spitalfields.

We must admit that the intentions of King James I were prompted by the highest patriotism, but unfortunately he seems to have been ill-advised, for the silkworm farm never flourished. James I

may be forgiven for not being well versed in botany, but surely the guardian-protector of the silkworm farm cannot be so easily excused. While James I ordered mulberry trees to be planted in his Mulberry Garden—and suggested to his noblemen that they also might follow his example by growing mulberry trees on their estates—Stallenge appears to have overlooked the first essentials of silkworm-breeding.

There are two kinds of mulberry tree—the white mulberry, which is best fitted to feed silkworms, and the black mulberry, which supplies the fruit of that name. Stallenge, even with the example of France and other countries before him, seems to have imported the black mulberry tree into England ; and was no doubt duly surprised when his trees bore fruit but did not feed the silkworms very successfully.

Charles I seems to have realized that all was not well with this silk monopoly, and in 1628 he appointed Walter, Lord Aston, as keeper of the Mulberry Garden, with a yearly fee of £60 ; but there is no evidence that the site was still used as a mulberry garden, and very likely it became a private estate. In any case, Lord Aston was frequently abroad in connexion with his embassy duties in Spain from 1635 to 1638.

Thus the Mulberry Garden failed to flourish, and was more or less abandoned. Whether the venture would ever have been a success is doubtful, for it is always possible that the white mulberry tree could not flourish in England ; and it is extremely likely that silkworms would not be able to stand our English climate without a very high death-rate and

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therefore constant restocking. In any case, those silk industries which have flourished in the past have always been located in the "wine belt," which lies some distance south of England, and actually not farther north than outdoor grape cultivation.

With the defeat of Charles I by the troops of Oliver Cromwell, and the subsequent Commonwealth period, we find that the Mulberry Garden was no longer a Royal monopoly but had become an amusement park.

This, at any rate, is what existing records of the times are inclined to make us believe. Considerable doubt, however, exists with regard to the actual use of the real Mulberry Garden—situated, as has been stated, on what is now the south-west side of Constitution Hill.

On a map, *circa* 1665, of the Grosvenor Estate, which includes the Mulberry Garden and land around it, is a reference to a slaughter-house and grounds, on what would appear to be land abutting Buckingham Palace Road and forming part of the Royal Stables to-day. This land, as we shall see later, formed part of the kitchen garden of Goring House and was enclosed by a wall. It no doubt contained several outhouses and trees, and possibly other small buildings.

We read that this land was

"sometime in the tenure of Shrington or Charrington, and in 1660 let with Goring House to John Shaw on behalf of Mr. Daniel O'Neald,

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and by Mr. O'Neald now let, together with y^e two kitchen gardens of Goring House now made into one . . . who employs y^e house and ground in publique entertainment of this house and ground . . . also by waste lying along y^e way within y^e pricks which y^e Lord Goring enclosed out of . . .”

It would appear quite definitely, therefore, that Goring House kitchen garden formed the amusement park, the house referred to being the slaughter-house, which would form the main buildings and kitchens.

What could be more natural than for a caterer who exploited the site to use the term “Mulberry Garden” rather than kitchen garden when attracting fashionable people to his premises? The explanation seems to be upheld by the fact that one writer of this age of diarists comments that there were no mulberry trees in the grounds—only shrubs and hedges.

In 1654 Evelyn the diarist wrote :

“My Lady Gerrard treated us at Mulberry Garden, now the only place of refreshment about the town for persons of the best quality. . . . Cromwell and his partisans having shut up and seized on Spring Gardens which, till now, had been the usual rendezvous for the ladies and gallants at this season.”

During the Commonwealth England became a very dull country. All playhouses were shut, pleasure gardens were closed, the playing of games on Sundays was stopped, and even the theatres were

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shut down. Every tavern became the centre of a group of discontented men trying to idle away their time.

With the Restoration the "Mulberry Garden" became a lively meeting-place for Court gallants. We have ample proof of this in many writings of the time, and even Charles II himself was often seen walking in the gardens—quite near St. James's Palace—in the company of any young lady who momentarily took his fancy. This rise to notoriety of the Mulberry Garden was due to the closing of Spring Gardens, as mentioned above, and which do not seem to ever have regained their old popularity. Thus the Mulberry Garden began to flourish, and when the King went there, it naturally followed that members of the Court should copy his lead, and the Garden soon became frequented by nobility and society.

The designer of this new order of living in the Mulberry Garden evidently knew his business well, for he understood that the Court gallants would require good meals, properly served; and proceeded to supply them in the several small houses that had previously housed the royal silkworms and garden appliances of Goring House.

Naturally the gardens became notorious as a rendezvous for illicit meetings. So much so, that they figure in several plays of the time dealing with doubtful love-affairs with the Mulberry Garden as the setting.

The invaluable Pepys is able to give us a few details of the period. Unfortunately, he was not impressed on his first visit, for he found it "a very silly place, worse than Spring Gardens, and but little company,

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and those of a rascally, whoring, rogueing sort of people, only a wilderness that is somewhat pretty, but rude. Did not stay to drink."

Apparently a few years later the Gardens had improved, for we read, on August 23rd, 1668 :

" I away into the park, and there met Mr. Pierce and his wife and sister and brother, and a little boy, and with them to Mulberry Garden and spent 18/- on them and there left them."

And on April 5th, 1669, we find :

" At noon by appointment comes Mr. Sheres, and he and I to Unthanke's, where my wife stays for us in our coach, and Betty Turner with her ; and we to the Mulberry Garden, where Sheres is to treat us with a Spanish Olio by a cook of his acquaintance that is there, that was with My Lord in Spain : and without any other company he did do it, and mighty nobly ; and the Olio was indeed a very noble dish, such as I never saw better or any more of.

"This, and the discourse he did give us of Spain and the description of the Escuriall, was a fine treat."

(After a ride in the country the same evening :)

" We anon took them with us to the Mulberry Garden and there after a walk, to supper upon what was left at noon : and very good : only Mr. Sheres being taken suddenly ill for a while did

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spoil our mirth ; but bye and bye well again, and we right merry."

Thornbury writes, in *Old and New London*, that Buckingham Palace stands on a site very near the Mulberry Garden, and continues :

" The public recreation ground does not appear to have lasted long, for in the course of a few years we find standing on a portion of it a mansion known as Arlington House—originally called Goring House."

At this stage of the story it would be well to realize that the many facts that have been mentioned are truly authentic. Possibly the best method of proving facts is to state other facts ; so that, for a few moments, we will turn to modern times and see if any mulberry trees remain.

Of the actual true Mulberry Garden we are able to trace but one or two trees that thrive in Buckingham Palace Grounds to-day. One of the trees is situated near the Royal Stables, within sight of the Goring Hotel.

It has been mentioned that, upon the request of James I, mulberry trees were planted over large sections of private estates, so that we should not be at all surprised to find these trees within a close distance to the actual Mulberry Garden, although possibly not forming part of it.

Just across Grosvenor Place, and only two hundred yards from Buckingham Palace Gardens, we find traces of one such mulberry tree.

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The Victoria end of Grosvenor Gardens is bounded on one side by Hobart Place, and actually behind No. 11, Hobart Place one of these famous trees flourished until very recent times. The north side of Hobart Place used to be occupied by Caroline Villas, each set in its own little garden.

With the rebuilding of Hobart Place, which was a suicides' burial-ground (suicides having stakes thrust through their hearts after death in those days), these villas were torn down, and the site is now occupied by Messrs. George Trollope and Sons, the Estate Agents.

The property forms part of the Grosvenor Estate, and the landlord, the Duke of Westminster, made a special building line when negotiating the rebuilding of this north side of Hobart Place, with a view to preserving this relic of the days of James I.

As a result, the modern houses which occupy the site have to leave a garden space at the back of their premises ; and the actual houses themselves were in some cases restricted at the back to one floor above the ground level in order to ensure a sufficiency of light and air for the mulberry tree.

Unfortunately, the building operations must have disturbed the roots of this fine tree, with the result that, after two or three years, the tree died, and the garden now remains empty.

Following the same line—almost due west—we can trace a tree still standing at the back of No. 28, Chapel Street, at the end of Eaton Square.

It seems feasible that up to 1840, when Grosvenor Gardens, Grosvenor Place, Eaton Square, and the

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King's Road, Chelsea, were built, that an avenue of mulberry trees existed from Lower Grosvenor Place, Hobart Place, down Eaton Square, to Chelsea.

The building operations of that period accounted for many changes in this part of London, for at the beginning of the last century the whole of Belgravia and Chelsea was virtually farm-land, swamps, or territory preserved by the Chelsea Water Works.

Turning in the opposite direction and passing Buckingham Palace along the Birdcage Walk, we come to another mulberry tree, still standing, near a small fountain in St. James's Park. Opposite this fountain, on the right-hand side of Birdcage Walk, is Queen Anne's Mansions, a solid block of buildings which even to-day is one of the largest individual piles of buildings in London proper.

In front of this building, and actually facing St. James's Park, is a small garden, which at one time contained a very historical mulberry tree under which Milton is said to have written his *Paradise Lost*.

Photographs of this tree still exist, and are the property of Queen Anne's Mansions, Ltd.. A large number of trees used to stand on the site of Emanuel Hospital, but have now vanished, while the Westminster City Council has a deed box "made from seasoned wood of the mulberry trees which once formed James I's Mulberry Garden."

CHAPTER IV

GORING HOUSE—*Continued*

GEORGE GORING, EARL OF NORWICH

“HAD I millions of Crowns or scores of sons, the King and his cause should have them all.”

In these few words is laid bare the character of George Goring, Earl of Norwich, who thus unwittingly summarized his life's history in a letter to his wife during his exile in France at the later end of his life.

The Goring of Goring House was most probably born in 1585, the son of George Goring of Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, and Anne, daughter of Henry Denny of Waltham.¹

Young George—plain George Goring—appears to have been destined from the first to a Court life, and at quite a young age we find him mentioned on a list of “gentlemen pensioners” of Queen Elizabeth. As good “Queen Bess” died in 1603, the official description of this young man at the early age of under 18 would appear rather amusing according to present-day standards.

Elegant, good-looking, and extremely versatile, Goring's undoubted gifts as a courtier and wit soon attracted the favour of James I, so that his fortunes

¹ The name Goring is not very common in England, and the Sussex Gorings still exist. The small resort of Goring-by-Sea, near Worthing (Sussex), is most probably named through the connexion of the Goring family with this part of the county.

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were assured in surroundings where personal attractiveness counted for so much. A contemporary of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham—the Court favourite who literally ruled England during the reigns of the first two Stuarts—we find young Goring mentioned in many of the more daring escapades of the time in which Villiers is mentioned, and also in some of the more doubtful “Masques” which were played before the King.

Be it remembered that, with the accession of James VI of Scotland as James I of England, Court life underwent a complete change. We find many references to the weak-mindedness of the Stuart dynasty—a weak-mindedness handed down by James I himself.

An uncouth man, noted for his slobbering mien and partiality to young men as favourites about his Court, James I completely reversed the more dignified and austere character of Queen Elizabeth, and commenced, almost from the very beginning of his reign, in alienating his English subjects by showering favours on his Scottish followers. Within a year or so the English courtiers began to understand the new tactics, so that people of the type of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham,¹ soon began to lay siege to the royal favours. Goring would appear to have been very much of the same type as the great George Villiers himself, and, in fact, he accepted the Villiers' patronage as an easy way to advancement.

¹ Nothing to do with the Duke of Buckingham (third Earl Mulgrave) who eventually gave his name to Buckingham Palace.

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As one of the four best-dressed and best-looking young bloods about the royal Steenie, the first step up the ladder of favouritism was soon reached, for in May 1608 he was knighted, and in 1610 became one of the gentlemen of the Privy Chamber of the Prince of Wales.

It seems possible that Sir George Goring at this stage may have had a hand in the costly and futile journey to Spain which Buckingham undertook with young Prince Charles in order to arrange an alliance by marriage with the Spanish royal family. Few more costly expeditions have ever been undertaken, and, in fact, it was only after months of urging that the versatile Buckingham persuaded Steenie to entrust his eldest son to his care for such a hazardous trip as a cross-country journey through France to Madrid entailed.

The jewellery, precious stones, and expensive clothes of silk and brocade set with diamonds and pearls—supplied by a Royal Purse for this journey—make interesting reading. While Goring is not mentioned as being one of the four who accompanied the young Prince on this expedition, it seems possible that he may have joined the party later, or been one of those who carried dispatches to Madrid during the year Prince Charles and Buckingham were absent from England.

Due to Buckingham's surliness and his "spoilt-child" attitude to the Spanish Grandees, whom he utterly failed to impress, the expedition was not a success. In fact, in view of the intensely Catholic attitude of the Spanish Court, it never could have been a success.

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Returned home, steps were then taken to interest Henrietta Maria in a marriage to the young Prince. Again Buckingham displayed his elaborate finery, this time with better success, as a Royal match actually took place, and Henrietta Maria became the consort of Charles I. The conditions of the marriage, however, were more skilfully arranged from the French side than the English, as the young Queen brought her Roman Catholic advisers with her, and thus somewhat upset the harmony of the Court.

Goring seems to have taken quite an active part in the arrangements for this marriage, and as a reward we find him installed first as Vice-Chamberlain and later as Master of the Household to the Queen.

This must surely have been one of the most unenviable of positions, for Roman Catholics were most unpopular at Court, and since the French Ambassador was continually intriguing with the Spanish Ambassador at the Court of St. James's, the Queen's influence was everlastingly solicited against Court interests.

It is doubtful if Henrietta Maria ever had much influence during the early years of her life in England, for Charles I hated her Catholic advisers. She was extremely devout—or pretended to be—and her none too accommodating nature soon gave her the excuse to wrap herself more and more behind the mantles of her confessors, and leave Charles to his own devices.

Intrigues and counter-intrigues became so unpleasant that eventually Charles I, in a fit of rage,

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denounced his marriage contracts and forcibly ejected the nuns and priests with whom the Queen had been allowed to surround herself. These French spiritual advisers were, in fact, confined for a short time to their houses and forbidden to go out into the streets, until they were eventually dispatched to France under an armed guard of Cavaliers. It may well be imagined that the Court relations between the two countries became strained after this incident, and Henrietta had to console herself as best she could.

Goring, created Baron Goring in 1628, thus had ample scope, as Master of the Queen's Household, to show the tact for which he was so noted ; for to act as buffer between King and Queen and still hold the confidence of both sides is no mean achievement.

No doubt he was considerably helped by his friendship with Buckingham, who alone controlled the King's actions.

It is possible that during the next few years Goring acquired some of those many portions of lands which the early Stuarts gave away out of the heritage left by Henry VIII ; for his income at this period was at least £9,000 per annum. It would appear that Lord George Goring, as he is now styled, acquired a small part of the Mulberry Garden of James I in 1623 from Sir William Blake, but no house appears to have been built on the site. In fact, it is not until 1630, on the death of Blake, that any buildings seem to have been erected which would in any way account for Goring House, except the rather small house Blake himself built.

The remainder of the property would have come into his possession about 1635, when Lord Aston, the then lessee of the Mulberry Garden, was appointed as Ambassador to the Court of Spain.

Apart from giving away vast stretches of land, Charles I devised the system of monopolies by which the Crown controlled the output and sold to the public at fixed prices. Lord George Goring would seem to have been more fortunate in monopolies than he was in grants of land, for his income in 1641 was reputed at £25,000, gained largely from interests in the Tobacco Monopoly.

The Long Parliament, however, which came into existence in 1640, soon made its deliberations felt, and before many months had passed most of the monopolies were stopped—among them the Tobacco Rights—so that the income derived therefrom must have dropped considerably.

It became obvious that a Civil War would soon break out, for the Court by this time was very short of money and completely alienated from the people. Charles I had made many mistakes through omission and riotous living, Buckingham had lost an army over a futile siege of La Rochelle—mostly Charles I's fault, it must be granted—as the British Navy was so inefficient at this period. Internally England was at a very low ebb. The Army had been unpaid for three years, the Navy had hardly a seaworthy vessel, and was recruited by Press Gangs; and billeting was resorted to, especially in Devon and Cornwall and around the Dockyards.

Thus, not only were the Army and Navy dis-

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grunted, but also the people—for to have the scum of England impressed by Press Gangs, billeted in private houses where they made everything filthy, ate plentifully, and even stole the property of the householders—all without payment or compensation from the Government—was not exactly popular. Many people could also remember the fame of the English Fleet under Drake and Raleigh not many years earlier. . . .

Buckingham having been assassinated, a lot of Court intrigue seems to have fallen on Goring, who in 1642 accompanied the Queen to France to raise money in the Royal Cause. Mazarin, that astute French statesman, made many promises which failed to materialize.

The text of a successful agreement was actually sent to Charles I, but appears to have been intercepted by Parliamentary agents, and Goring was impeached for high treason. To make an impeachment in the least effective, it is advisable to have the impeached person in one's charge, but as both King and Parliament claimed to rule the country at this time, Goring kept well out of the way of the Roundheads.

On November 28th, 1644, Goring was created Earl of Norwich, following his successful part in the Battle of Marston Moor. Although the King was heavily defeated, Goring, leading the mounted troops, cut right through the Parliamentarian ranks, and if his initial success had been properly followed up, the defeat might have been turned into victory.

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He was not able, however, to re-form his troopers and take the Roundheads in the rear, and after the first charge many of his men seem to have scattered and left the field.

The year 1645 saw the commencement of the second part of the Civil War, with Goring somehow in charge of the Army in Essex and Kent. His leadership was not a success, for his charming personality and courtly ways were hardly calculated to keep an army in control, and his military experience was practically nil.

The Kentish levies that rose at his behest were easily defeated by Fairfax near Maidstone, but Goring marched on London—the stronghold of the Commonwealth—hoping the loyalists of Surrey would join him. This failed to materialize, so Goring crossed into Essex to see what arrangements he could make with the King's supporters in that county. His army seems to have followed him, due to some misunderstanding, and he was forced to march to Colchester in a vain hope that he could hold that town until help came. In August, threatened with starvation, the garrison not being in the mood to make a sortie, Goring surrendered and was taken prisoner to Windsor Castle.

He was impeached by the House of Commons, who voted that he should be banished ; but at the end of that year—Parliamentary parties having changed—an ordinance of February 2nd, 1649, decreed a new trial, and Goring was sentenced to death in March, after apparently spending three years in confinement.

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He obtained a stay of execution, however, and on a further vote being taken on his case, the numbers for and against were equal—the Speaker's casting vote turning the scale in favour of Mercy. The Speaker of the House of Commons at this time was Lenthall, a man who left his mark on the pages of history as the famous Speaker who defied Charles I some years previously, when that monarch attempted the arrest of the Five Members. He had always been friendly with Goring, and so far as we can understand, he owed Goring quite a debt of gratitude for favours previously received during Royalist times.

For part of this period—before and during the trial—Speaker Lenthall may have lived in Goring House—and it seems probable that this fact may have been one of the “favours” to which Goring owed his life.

In May, Goring was pardoned as to his life, and set at liberty to rejoin Charles II on the Continent. During the exile he appears to have tried to negotiate with the Duke of Lorraine for the relief of Ireland, and also to propose a marriage between the Duke of York and a daughter of the Duke of Lorraine—military assistance most likely being one of the principal stumbling-blocks of the negotiations.

We read that “the Earle of Norwiche is now the ablest and faithfulest person that can be employed by the King to do him real service in France.” He appears, however, to have been too honest a person in many ways, as he would not submit to many of the subterfuges necessary to help a King without a Crown and with but scanty means.

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With the Restoration, Lenthall, along with others, was impeached in his turn, so that now his old friend the Earl of Norwich, who had returned to England with Charles II, was able to get him a modified sentence, due entirely to his personal influence in high places.

Goring, for his services during the exile, was made Captain of the King's Guard and regained his seat on the Privy Council. His income, however, was not at its former level, and he had to ask for the return of his estates around Goring House. Consequently the Lord Treasurer Southampton wrote to the Attorney-General :

“ Would pass the grant of the Mulberry Garden to the Earl of Norwich, as required but as a fee farm ; is anxious for no such grant to pass except by lease or for lives ; suggests that it should be for years even in exceeding the 31 limited by the King, the fees to be proportioned to the number of years.”

The next chapter shows the troubles which this Goring House Estate entailed, so that Goring did not get his land back owing to the litigation which was at once started.

In the meanwhile, on January 6th, 1663, Lord Goring, Earl of Norwich, died at Brentford, aged 80 years.

CHAPTER V

GORING HOUSE, 1623-1674

THE earliest plan of the "Mulberry Garden" and its surroundings dates from 1614. On it we find a 4-acre plot as walled-in and made by James I under the direction of Stallenge, in a large field north-west of St. James's Park, and below it is another half-acre field. A man named Sir William Blake, Kt., built a house on this site, half on the garden and partly on the half-acre plot, in 1623.

Unfortunately, however, this half-acre caused a lot of litigation over a long period, due to the fact that Sir William Blake was not the actual owner of this additional piece, although the 4-acre "Mulberry Garden" seems to have been properly conveyed. It would appear from the litigation that he tampered with the plans and Deed of Sale—actually thus obtaining land which did not belong to him, because he found that part of his house of 1623 was built on this odd half-acre plot.

Sir William Blake died in 1630, and we find his son William conveying the entire $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres as one piece to George, Lord Goring, who proceeded to extend the property still farther by building out-houses and a laundry and drying yard.

The gardens also came in for attention, as mention is made of a fountain garden and a terrace.

In fact, Goring made the house worthy of his rising position at Court—but he appears to have

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done it entirely with other people's money ; for his behaviour in matters of property ran counter to his attractions as a courtier. To round off the property he appears to have entered into negotiation with a Mr. Hugh Awdeley, in order to further extend his garden. This Awdeley was one of the most shrewd business men of the day, and was for some years Clerk to the Court of Wards and Liveries, one of the most lucrative posts in the Kingdom.

The Court of Wards and Liveries would correspond to our " Wards in Chancery," and dealt with the estates of minors up to their coming of age. As a lot of land was still Crown property, held by the Lords and Nobility on lease from the King, it followed that when a great nobleman died and left a minor to succeed him, the Crown took charge of the estate until the minor came of age and could enjoy his own rights.

During these wardships the King generally used most of the money " in Chancery," or gave " Rights of Guardianship " (virtually control of the income) to Court favourites.

Where there is plenty of money passing to and fro, some will always stick, and thus Awdeley was a much-sought-after man. He appears to have had an interest in the Ebury Estate through Sir Lionel Cranfield, whom we mentioned after the Dissolution of the Monasteries—and who was Master of the Court of Wards and Liveries for some time ; so it was to him that Goring went with regard to the portion he required of the Manor of Ebury.

Upon payment of a deposit of £520, Awdeley

allowed Goring possession of part of the ground contracted for, so that we now find the Goring Estate standing partly on freehold property, partly on freehold property to which the title was invalid, and partly on property on which only a deposit had been paid. In all fairness be it said that Goring did not know that part of the land conveyed by Blake was conveyed on a forged document, and it is probable that William Blake, who conveyed the property, was not aware of his father's actions before him.

The muddle not being as yet sufficiently complicated, the next step on Goring's part was to borrow quite a lot of money and leave the Goring Estate as a security to two different people, with the purchase money still unpaid.

In 1636 Goring borrowed £2,450 from John Denny, giving Goring House as security.

Denny died the next year, however, and his family inherited the debt with interest, which eventually appears to have mounted to about £5,000.

Goring contracted for £7,000 worth of the Manor of Ebury with Hugh Awdeley, for it was obvious that land so near St. James's was a good investment. He had only paid £520 for it, however, and no doubt his position at Court made it difficult for Awdeley to enforce further payment. An agreement was finally effected by which Lord Goring should pay something over £2,000 per annum for the years 1641, 1642, 1643.

Despite the Tobacco Monopoly, which Goring would have enjoyed about this time, the money was not paid ; and Goring went to fight the civil wars of

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Charles I, leaving considerable confusion behind him and a further debt of £20,000—and Goring House apparently as security a second time—to a Mr. Isaac Jones and Mr. John Jacob, of Covent Garden.

At the time of the Civil Wars it would appear that Goring had made considerable alterations to his property, which now comprised the actual boundaries of the Buckingham Palace of to-day with but slight exceptions. It also seems that he was responsible for taking the river Tyburn underground for part of its course.

The references to a watercourse in the deed of sale which Lord Goring acquired were regarded as applying equally to the "waste" which bordered the Tyburn and to the roads near his house.

Indeed, it was no doubt the proximity of the stream to the road that had caused the Chelsea Road to be about 100 yards wide as it passed Goring House, and so to continue at this width up to the site of the present Royal Mews; for in those days roads were cart-tracks, and width in a case of this kind was easily accounted for by the necessity for leaving flood space for the river. On the strip of roadway and river space Goring enclosed 2 acres 3 roods 27 perches, thereby confining the existing Buckingham Palace Road to its present course.

The times were so unsettled that the holding of land in any form became a delicate matter, for during the Civil Wars, at least, both the King and Parliamentarians claimed prerogative to rule the country. Thus it occurred that the Committee of

the Commonwealth which dealt with sequestrations and assessments of property came to cases of disputed title amongst many of the Royalists, and Goring House was one of them.

There was a supposition that it belonged to Lord George Goring, but a Mr. French was paying rent to Awdeley for the Mulberry Garden, and Awdeley now claimed to own practically the whole estate.

At the hearing it appeared that Mistress Anne Denny, one of the children of John Denny, claimed that when Goring discovered his debt to the family was more than the property was worth, he gave up all right to the title in the land and house to her brother Edward Denny.

This seemed very feasible, so that the Committee for Sequestrations gave sanction to the claim and paid her the rent. It was apparently forgotten, however, that Lord George Goring had only paid one instalment on the purchase price of his property, so Awdeley took the entire question to the King's Bench, and twice successfully contested his claim to the title, thus establishing that the property was never the lawful possession of Goring and that, therefore, Goring House could not be assigned by Lord Goring to a third party.

These decisions upset Edward Denny, who on New Year's Day, 1651, appears to have been foolish enough to break into the fountain garden and tread down grass to the value of 40s., and in 1652 he again broke in and spoilt a door and lock worth 50s. and defaced and took away a fountain of lead and stone valued at £100.

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This led to a petition by the younger children of John Denny, who stated that they were orphans and that the rent paid to them was all they had to live on.

All these complications became so involved that the case came before the Attorney-General, Mr. Prideaux.

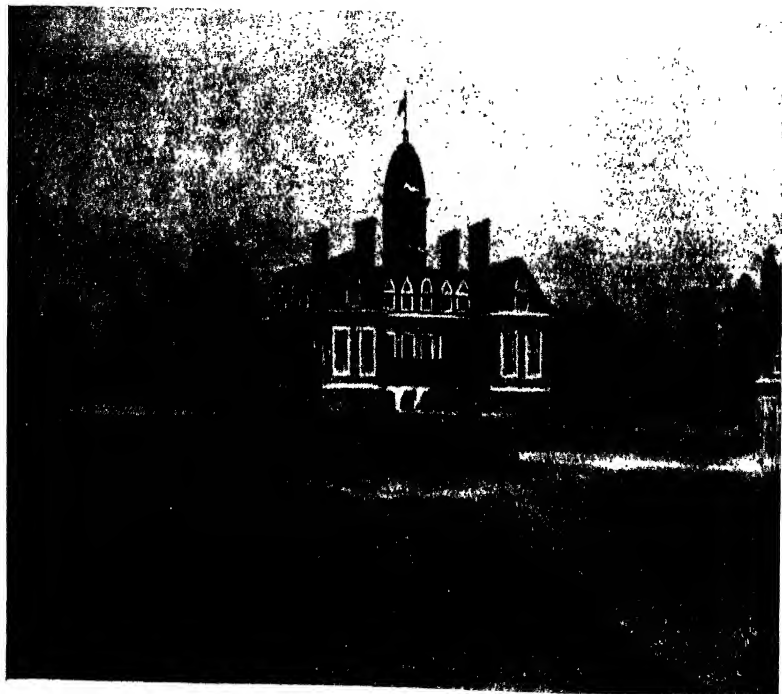
By now Sir William Blake had been dead twenty years, and Lord George Goring banished five years, due to the Commonwealth régime. The remaining parties were the children of John Denny and Hugh Awdeley.

The Denny claim to the half-acre was not good, as it was discovered that on the deed of sale, dated July 1623, the words "North Side" had been obliterated and "South Side" substituted—most likely because Blake had started to build his house on the wrong side of the road from Charing Cross to Chelsea, and found it easier to change the deed than to pull down the house.

Goring had mortgaged the house to Denny, and Parliament, through the Council in State, had ordered a prepayment of £25 to Anne Denny for quartering soldiers in Goring House for three months, before the allowance was made to her by the Council for quartering soldiers there.

Prideaux's award was that Mr. Awdeley was to have peaceful possession, and at the same time to pay Edward Denny the sum of £1,100.

Actually it would appear that Mr. Speaker Lenthall lived in Goring House during part of the earlier Commonwealth régime, but from accounts still in existence, it is most likely that the building was unoccupied for part of the time, and even used by the Government.



GORING HOUSE, 1632

From a Contemporary Print

GORING HOUSE, 1623-1674

This is supported by official records, for in 1646 the French Ambassador, Monsieur Bellieure, visited England, and Parliament furnished Goring House for his visit as an alternative to Somerset House; and on July 1st a company was sent in the King's Barges to Gravesend to meet the French Ambassador and offer a first reception.

On January 9th, 1647, the House of Commons ordered that the petition of Hugh Awdeley and Robert Harvy (?) be referred to the consideration of the Committee of the Revenue, to give the petitioners satisfaction for "Goreing House" during the time which the French Ambassador used it for his official business. Goring House was used as Commonwealth Barracks in 1653, for Prideaux's award that Denny should "procure the soldiers now quartered in the said house and buildings and all other persons to be removed thence," brings this fact to light—and indeed we find substantial evidence in the *Catalogue of Westminster Records* that "the churchwardens of St. Margarets had to supply 'by command' coals, faggots, and candles to a regiment of souldiers in Goringe House."

To give a picture of the Goring House of Cromwellian times, we can quote from one of the many land surveyors who went round under the Commonwealth to make surveys for the Government :

"Goring House, that is, Blake's house enlarged, faced south (on ground now occupied by the Northern wing of Buckingham Palace).

"In front of Goring House is a court-yard with

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a faire paire of gates and a paved walke up to the East, the ffountaine garden on the West. Parte thereof is used for a bowling alley and parte thereof is planted with severall sortes of fruite trees (mulberry ?) and the other parte thereof planted with white thorne in the manner of a wilderness or maze of walkes."

It would appear that Lord George Goring did not reside long at Goring House.

After the Commonwealth the property, for what it was worth, was returned to Lord George Goring upon his return to England in 1660, following the petition made to Lord-Treasurer Southampton, as we have already seen.

The death of Lord George Goring in 1663 started another series of disputes by the same parties as to the ownership of the property, and eventually the house seems to have come into the hands of Bennet, subsequently Earl of Arlington, who took up residence about 1664.

Out of all the confusion it appears that Charles II actually retained possession of Goring Gardens, and in 1672 granted a lease to the Earl of Arlington for 99 years.

(The falling in of the lease in 1771 after the Buckingham "régime" was said to be one of the factors of this property being considered by George III in his choice of a Dower House for Queen Charlotte in 1762, when about £28,000 was paid for the remaining lease.)

GORING HOUSE, 1623-1674

From this period onwards Goring House sprang before the public eye as one of the centres of politics ; and it became known for the famous balls, dinners, and receptions which were held there—for it was now the property of a wealthy householder who used his town house for lavish entertaining with a view to further advancement.

The Earl of Arlington, with all his faults, was house-proud. Nothing was too good for himself, his friends, and his guests ; and his building schemes were lavish in the extreme, while every latest comfort was installed beneath his roof—even to a limited supply of bathrooms to his guests' rooms—a luxury hitherto unheard of and considered wellnigh impossible.

He was also fortunate in the fact that Charles II undertook the formation of St. James's Park, which greatly assisted the site and prospects of Goring House.

A forceful man, unscrupulous in most things, Arlington and the second Duke of Buckingham ruled England for Charles II and shared the highest honours.

From the very outset he spent large sums on improvements, until Goring House became a treasure house of beautiful things. A little later, in marrying the daughter of Louis of Nassau, Lady Arlington happily proved no less gifted than himself, so that anybody who, by any title, could claim the notice of polite society was made welcome at Goring House.

In fact, the invaluable Samuel Pepys remarks under date of July 12th, 1666 :

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“Up again by five o'clock and away to the Tower, and thence, having shifted myself to St James's, to Goring House, there to wait on my Lord Arlington, to give him an account of night's work, but he was not up, being not long since married : so after walking up and down the house below, being the house I was once at Hartlib's sister's wedding, and is a very fine house, and finely furnished . . .”

Again, August 10th, 1668 :

“To my Lord Arlington's the first time since he came thither, [returned] at Goring House, a very fine, noble place ; and there he received me in sight of several Lords with great respect.”

During the whole period of his popularity with Charles II, Arlington continued to make the centre of fashion at Goring House. Indeed, from a political viewpoint, Goring House was one of the greatest assets he had for social success.

Evelyn, in his diary for April 17th, 1673, says :

“I carried Lady Tuke to thank the Countess of Arlington for speaking to His Majesty, in her behalf, for being one of the Queen-Consort's women. She carried us up into her new dressing room at Goring House, where was a bed, two glasses, silver jars, and vases, cabinets, and other so rich furniture as I had seldom seen : to this excess of superfluity were we now arrived, and

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that not only at Court, but almost universally, even to wantonness and profusion."

Arlington is said to have had more horses and coaches in his stables than any other man in the country, and if a member of the aristocracy tried to rival him, he promptly went one better; and is reputed to have employed over one thousand servants at Goring House and Euston Hall.

A man who has risen from the ranks to the uppermost pinnacle must perforce have enemies, and Arlington was no exception. The confidant of his King in all matters—and many of them personal matters concerning the King's favourites, his mistresses, and those ladies who sought similar "Court favours"—Arlington at length began to lose favour, and in 1674 he was impeached in the House of Commons as "being the great instrument of the King's evil measures." The charges were: (1) his constant and vehement promotion of Popery; (2) self-aggrandisement and embezzlement; (3) frequent betrayal of trust. As a result of considerable influence amongst his personal friends, however, he got his impeachment dismissed and thrown out of the House of Commons by 166 to 127 votes, and further proceedings were dropped.

Less than eight months later—on August 21st, 1674—Goring House was totally destroyed by fire during the absence of Lord and Lady Arlington in Bath.

Hardly anything was saved of that house with its silken hangings, its rare pictures, and valuable furniture. Evelyn says, on August 22nd, 1674:

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“ Went to see the great loss that Lord Arlington has sustained by fire at Goring House, this night consumed to the ground, with exceeding loss of hangings, plate, rare pictures, and cabinets ; hardly anything was saved of the best and most princely furniture that any subject had in England.”

There is a story that in 1665—the year of the Great Plague—Arlington brought back from Holland the first pound of tea to England, and that it was brewed in Goring House. It is difficult to vouch for the accuracy of this statement, but it may be that Arlington brought back to England the first pound of tea belonging to a private individual. Even this is doubtful, for wining and feasting were of great consequence in those days of the dissolute Stuarts—so that one or other of the great noblemen of the times would have used this new brew in giving a dinner-party.

It would appear that Thomas Garway, described as of the Garroway Coffee Tavern in Enching Alley, was the first publicly to brew tea and sell it. This was as far back as 1657.

CHAPTER VI

ARLINGTON HOUSE, 1674-1703

THE glories of Goring House are thus past and gone, for with its razing to the ground by fire, a great loss was incurred. Perhaps from the viewpoint of the Earl of Arlington this fire was appropriate, for the one-time site of Goring House gave him an opportunity of building a finer and better mansion just at the time when, as we have seen, he obtained a lease on the property for 99 years.

This year 1674, however, seems to have been an unlucky one, and, in fact, formed the turning-point of his life ; for in September—hardly one month after Goring House had been burnt down—he felt constrained to resign the “ Secretaryship,” which he had held for some years, for £6,000, and took instead the position of Lord Chamberlain. Court feuds and jealousies further undermined his position, so that he had to yield his supremacy to others, and it is certain that his leaning towards Catholicism did him no good, although in his outward actions as Lord Chamberlain he endeavoured to show Anglican tendencies. Born in 1618, Arlington by this time would have been 56 years of age, and, like most men, found that he could not be so active as in the past.

He seems to have taken to semi-retirement, and spent a deal of time and money on his property at Euston and on rebuilding Goring House on a scale

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to equal anything in England at the period. The term of his new lease of 1673 appears to have included the conveyance of 27 acres 1 rood 37 perches, with the 4-acre "Mulberry Garden" in addition.

I have found no contemporary print showing Arlington House, but, as in the case of Goring House, this new mansion was cleverly designed to assist its owner in the political undercurrents of those restless times—it was referred to many times by writers of the period.

Indeed Evelyn, who was still active, mentions it in his diary :

"My son and I dining at my Lord Chamberlain's he showed us, amongst others, that incomparable piece of Raphael's, being a Minister of State dictating to Guicciardini, the earnestness of whose face looking up in expectation of what he was next to write, is so the life, and so natural, as I esteem it one of the choicest pieces of that admirable artist."

With regard to furnishings, the same extravagance was apparent in Arlington House as in Goring House, and, indeed, the loss of the older house seems to have added an excellent excuse for Arlington to continue to buy expensive masterpieces both in pictures and furniture.

A description given in the Surveyor-General's Report a few years later (and therefore presumably accurate) informs us that—

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“Arlington House was not without state and elegance within doors and without. The Oval Court and Flower Garden, the Terrace Walk, the Dwarf Tree Garden, the Wilderness, the Grove and Bowling Green, and the very extensive Orange House with Bagnio, Bathing Cisterns and the like.”

The stables with their appurtenances appear to have been large, for we read of 16 stalls in the Great Stables, 12 in the Hunting Horse Stables, and as many in the Pad Stable. The offices for servants were also large and extensive, and obviously formed for a numerous retinue. It further appears by the schedule that there were eight rooms on the ground-floor besides the chapel, the desk and the pews of which were made of wainscot lined with purple velvet, the seats and cushions all round of the same, with several pieces of branched carved work, and the pavements of black and white marble. The storey up one pair of stairs consisted of six rooms and a long gallery of nine sash windows towards the Park, with a blue-marble window slab each, a chimney-piece of blue marble with two white slabs, fifteen pictures at full length with gilt frames, and at the end of the gallery a small frame of olive wood with holes and pins for the exact computation of walking a mile.

Although retaining office, Arlington appears to have lived very quietly from 1680 onwards and to have devoted more and more time and money to his collection of pictures and furniture. His object,

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evidently, was to endow his daughter, Lady Isabella Bennet, who had married, in 1679, the Duke of Grafton—a “natural” son of Charles II—at the early age of 12.

In 1683 a son and heir was born to the Duchess, which is said to have caused the Earl of Arlington much joy. In 1685 Charles II died, and was succeeded by his brother James II. On July 25th of that year Arlington died, and left his estates to his daughter.

Between 1680 and 1685 the even tenor of life at Arlington House does not seem to have been very much disturbed. Few big banquets or fêtes were held; but as Arlington continued a friend and adviser to the King, his connexion with the Royal Family appears to have allowed him often to spend evenings with his sovereign both in Arlington House and St. James's Palace.

Indeed, it was in the gardens of Arlington House that the Duke of Monmouth took leave of his father, Charles II, before he was sent abroad (and who later led a futile rebellion), while in 1681 the Prince of Orange—later to be King William of England—spent two nights there, most likely on official business to the Lord Chamberlain.

In 1682 the Duke of York, who had been exiled in Scotland, returned to London, and was united to his Royal Parents at Arlington House before going to St. James's. We see, therefore, that the site of Goring House was well in the Royal favour.

On Arlington's death, the Duke and Duchess of

ARLINGTON HOUSE, 1674-1703

Grafton lived in Arlington House for a short time, thus making it a residence officially occupied by a member of the Royal Family.

This Duke of Grafton, as has been noted, was one of many illegitimate sons of Charles II—in this case by the famous and beautiful Countess of Castlemaine.

He was of a very quiet disposition, quite unlike his parents, and did not take to the foppish ways of the Court. The strong, silent type, born for fighting, he preferred, rather, to go to sea, and seems to have achieved a small niche in history at a very early age. When only 19 years old he was created a vice-admiral—possibly no more than a Court title in his case, for the fleet of England had hardly been improved to any marked degree since the times of Charles I.

True, during the Commonwealth it was put into some sort of order, but with another dissolute Court under Charles II it was again neglected.

In 1683, at the age of 20, Grafton took charge of a ship of his own name, carrying 70 guns, and here he was able to show his great skill in seamanship.

The next year he gained military experience, and later took an active part in suppressing Monmouth's rebellion in the south. He appears to have liked his ship best, however, and sailed around the Mediterranean on both diplomatic and warlike missions.

He was killed at the early age of 27 while leading troops up to their shoulders in water in an attempt to storm Cork from the sea-front. The effort was successful, but young Grafton was carried into Cork and died a few days later of injuries sustained.

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It has been said that this Duke of Grafton was the most promising of all the children of Charles II, and it is a pity that such a strong character was sacrificed at such an early age.

We have little account of Arlington House during these few years, so it is safe to surmise that during the five years from the death of Arlington in 1685 to the death of young Grafton in 1690 little took place there.

In any case, James II fled in 1689, and William and Mary became King and Queen of England. It is probable that, with her husband so much away, the Duchess of Grafton lived on the Euston Estate, which had been also handed down to her by Arlington.

We know that, following the untimely death of her husband, the Duchess seems to have found Arlington House too big for her means and to have let it to the first Duke of Devonshire, for we read :

“Arlington House, now being in the hands of my Lord of Devonshire [William Cavendish], is a fair place, with good walks, and both airy and shady. . . . Their greenhouse is very well, and their green-yard excels, but their greens are not so bright and clean as farther off in the country ; as if they suffered something from the smutty air of the town.”

Which goes to show that London was expanding, although Arlington House was still well in the country districts, except towards St. James's

ARLINGTON HOUSE, 1674-1703

Its surrounds were not actually built upon until the nineteenth century.

The new lessee was quite a character of his days, and noted for his fiery temper. He frequently came to the Courts on questions of litigation and money disputes.

He was energetic, prodigal in all things, and his temper led him to the fighting of many duels, details of several having been passed down to us.

At cock-fighting and horse-racing he won and lost large sums of money ; while his donations to charity were on a lavish scale.

A man of his type with money, and the knowledge of how to spend it, must have been eminently suited to occupy Arlington House after its enforced inactivities ; in fact, we have a record of one masked ball and supper which is said to have cost him £1,000.

For exactly how long the Duke of Devonshire was in occupation is rather hard to conjecture. At this period Devonshire and the Duke of Buckingham seem to have been at loggerheads, for both claimed to have purchased Berkeley House, since renamed Devonshire House, and recently in turn occupied by a block of flats facing Piccadilly, opposite the Ritz Hotel.

The Courts awarded Berkeley House to the Duke of Devonshire, who changed its name to Devonshire House forthwith and proceeded to make it the residence of himself and his offspring until it was pulled down in 1926.

Apparently there was also some dispute over the

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ownership of Arlington House between the same two gentlemen.

In any case, at the beginning of the century, Arlington House again caught fire and was severely damaged. This would most probably have been in 1703; in 1707 the Dukes of Buckingham and Devonshire again came to the Courts, this time the Duke of Buckingham being successful in obtaining the sum of £330 from the Duke of Devonshire "for damages occasioned by a fire some time since in Arlington House."

It would appear, therefore, that while Devonshire seems to have been living in Arlington House in 1703, Buckingham was the actual owner of the property, having acquired it legally from the Duchess of Grafton.

From this point onwards the course of any historical narrative is simplified, due to the more settled state of England and the more copious data which have been handed down to us. In fact, the data are so lengthy and varied that it is often hard to pick out the details required, for the many writers of the times vary in their opinions, and one can wade through many a volume, to find but two or three points of interest apart from official records, and these points in turn appear to be those most quoted in books on Buckingham Palace.

Before continuing with the reign of Queen Anne, and the Mansion the Duke of Buckingham built on the site of Arlington House, it would be of interest to go into the personality of John Sheffield,

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Duke of Buckingham, who gave his name to the Royal Palace—for Buckingham Palace is the only official Royal residence in the world which has kept a name bestowed upon it by a nobleman.

CHAPTER VII

JOHN SHEFFIELD, DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM, 1648-1721

DURING the Stuart dynasty, which lasted only eighty-six years, from the accession of James I to the flight of James II, there are three men who became Dukes of Buckingham. To the casual reader all three might have been the same man, for they all played an important part in history, they were all Court favourites, they were all good looking, adventuresome, and very active for their Stuart masters. And, what is more, they all three did very well out of the Stuarts.

The first was the famous George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, who ruled England during the reigns of James I and Charles I, and was murdered at a naval dockyard during the reign of Charles I. The second was his son, who became favourite in his place, and accompanied Charles II to France during the Commonwealth exile, to return eventually as chief favourite during the time of the Earl of Arlington.

The third was John Sheffield, son of the second Earl of Mulgrave, and Elizabeth, daughter of Lionel Cranfield, first Earl of Middlesex, of whom we read as owning part of the Manor of Eia one hundred years back. He was born on April 7th, 1648. His father died in 1658, so that at the age of 10 he became third Earl of Mulgrave.

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He is therefore no relation to the two other Dukes of Buckingham, and the title became extinct before it was reconstituted in 1703.

A headstrong but clever youth, Mulgrave soon began to give his tutors trouble, and before long he virtually undertook his own education. To be more precise, he dispensed with his tutors at the age of 12.

There can be little doubt that in those times children developed more quickly—or appear to have developed more quickly—possibly because there was not so much to learn. History is full of examples of leadership under the Stuarts at a very early age, and even this short volume has brought to light the considerable early activities of many characters under 20 years of age, from Lord George Goring onwards.

During his early years Mulgrave dabbled in everything, and succeeded in acquiring an easy mastery of literature and languages which he put to excellent use later in life by careful translations that are handed down to us to-day as examples of the learning of the age.

Versatile, at the age of 17 Mulgrave volunteered to serve against the Dutch in 1666, and came under fire for the first time in that year. In 1667 he was given command of an independent troop of horse raised to defend the coast from possible Dutch invasion.

At the age of 18 we read that he was called to Parliament, but that the Earl of Northumberland raised an objection to having one so young to take part in ruling the country. Evidently youth could lead troops to death or glory on a field of battle but

could not rule. The objection was upheld ; but surely there must have been some political under-current, for favouritism implied early favours in those days.

So Mulgrave turned his attention to a dissolute Court, and became an ardent and successful admirer of the ladies of Charles II. It is as well to note that, although his affairs of the heart were many, he did not allow them to influence his higher aims in life, although at the time he would have been a companion lady-killer with the notorious George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham, and he certainly obtained Court recognition.

Tiring of this pastime—or perhaps for lack of a further supply of suitable paramours—he joined up for the second Dutch war in 1672, and acquitted himself so creditably that he was afterwards given command of the *Royal Katherine*, one of the better ships of the Navy at that time. During the years 1673 and 1674 he was appointed Gentleman of the King's Bedchamber and Knight of the Order of the Garter respectively.

From 1674 to 1679 he put in five years' soldiering under Marshal de Turenne, and appears to have thoroughly enjoyed a swashbuckling life.

Returning to England, he was given further appointments, and is said by some authorities to have been Lord-Lieutenant of the County of York.

His age would have been only 31, which is rather young for a position of this type, which entailed an almost complete control of one of the biggest districts of England. It is more likely that the second Duke

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of Buckingham—who held the title at this time—was appointed to the position at York, for we know that at some time he actually occupied this position during an unsuccessful rising.

Gossip and intrigue then took their turn with the young Earl, and he was reported to have aspired to the hand of Princess Anne of Orange. Anne was hardly a beauty, and, moreover, she lived in a solid Dutch family circle not accustomed to the dashing ways of the Stuarts.

Possibly without any intention, young Mulgrave, with his splendid bearing and flowing tongue, made some impression on this member of royalty with whose country we had been at war not so long before. Be that as it may, it formed an excellent opportunity for Mulgrave's many rivals to scandalize—and of course the King got to hear of the indiscretion.

This intrigue, studied or not, was to have a great bearing on his later years—for at this period no one in the world ever dreamt that Princess Anne would one day become Queen of England.

The first results of the Princess Anne episode were not very pleasant, however, and called down Court disfavour on Mulgrave's head. Evidently his enemies at Court made the most of the story, and Charles II was persuaded to recognize officially his misconduct.

Mulgrave was deprived of his offices and offered the command of an expedition to relieve Tangiers, at that time besieged by the Moors. As indicating the bribery and corruption at Court, it is stated

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on good authority that Mulgrave was assigned an old frigate-of-the-line known to be unseaworthy in heavy weather. It says much for the pride and courage of the man that he carried out these orders, accompanied by the Earl of Plymouth (a natural son of the reigning King), who insisted on making the trip when all the other leaders backed out.

These details sound almost too fantastic to be true, but here, again, the state of the Navy made anything possible in those times, and the command of an unseaworthy man-of-war was most probably all in the day's work.

However, the weather remained fine for the entire voyage, and what water was shipped could be easily dealt with.

On sight of an English ship the Moors fled, and Mulgrave returned to a joyful England—to be reinstated in his former positions, which he maintained until the death of Charles II in 1685.

With the accession of James II he became a member of the Privy Council, and at the end of the same year was appointed Lord Chamberlain. About this time a further agitation against the Roman Catholics came to the fore, due mainly to the attitude and faith of James II, who was the only openly avowed Catholic King since the Dissolution of the Monasteries one hundred and fifty years before.

Despite this agitation, Mulgrave still remained by the side of his King, knowing full well that the population were getting restless and that nearly all the nobility were against James II.

During this period Mulgrave showed great powers

JOHN SHEFFIELD, DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM

of judgment, resource, and tact. He knew well the ultimate outcome of James's efforts to restore the Catholics, and he tried to dissuade his royal master from too active a campaign in the Catholic interests.

So well was he able to read the signs, and so honest and fair was he in his dealings, that two attempts to implicate him were unsuccessful. When the revolution did break out—if revolution it could be called—and William and Mary landed in England, Mulgrave was one of the last to leave James II; and upon anti-Catholic rioting breaking out in London, Mulgrave personally went to the aid of the Spanish Ambassador when the mob demolished the Embassy buildings.

This tactful and courageous act assisted in diverting any international complications with Spain—a fact fully appreciated by the new monarch.

It was quite natural that, under Protestant William, Mulgrave gave up his Court life, and instead became leader of the Tory Party—distinguishing himself by the manner of address and the force of argument he was able to command.

From 1693 he began to veer round towards the Government, evidently being fully convinced that there was no chance of a return of the Stuart dynasty.

In 1694 he again became a Privy Councillor with a pension of £3,000, and was created Marquess of Normanby—most likely to try to stem the rising tide of opinion he was controlling, not only in Parliament, but with his political poems, which he broadcast to good advantage.

Before being given this title he was offered further honours and a larger pension, but declined them, as he stated that his views on many subjects connected with government were not in keeping with the wishes of his King. For a short time in 1695 he was constituted Speaker of the House of Lords during the illness of the Lord-Keeper, Sir John Somers, which illustrates the gradual change that was taking place in his sentiments towards the Government. His dislike for William and Mary, however, continued to the end of their reign.

We find that, upon the presentation to Parliament in 1696 of a Bill requesting all members to declare William "their rightful and lawful King," Mulgrave refused—and even led a strong opposition—reminding them that the Stuart dynasty still existed. He succeeded in getting the words of the pledge altered, but his efforts cost him his place on the Privy Council and his pension. It seems reasonable to suppose that the whole object for giving Mulgrave his title of Marquess, and his pension, was to try to silence his ready tongue and able pen, and thus bring him away from the opposition. This definitely failed, and for the remaining years of the reign of William and Mary, Mulgrave, Marquess of Normanby, was the leader of the opposition against all the suggestions put forward by the King.

With the accession of Queen Anne in 1703, the Marquess of Normanby quickly rose to favour, and although several of his political actions were not calculated to please the Queen, she seems to have had some remembrances of their early encounters

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and to have had a genuine liking for this brilliant, if somewhat too versatile, statesman.

On March 9th, 1703, Mulgrave rose from Marquess of Normanby to Duke of Normanby, and within three months was created Duke of Buckingham.

In 1705 Buckingham retired and married for the third time, his two previous wives having died without issue, although the second one brought with her two daughters from a previous marriage. He chose Catherine Darley, illegitimate daughter of James II by Catherine Sedley, a Court favourite who became Countess of Dorchester.

As a wedding present Queen Anne, who was related to this third wife, seems to have given Buckingham 2 rods 9 perches out of St. James's Park in order to allow more scope for the mansion he intended to build now he had acquired the site of Arlington House. Shortly afterwards the new Buckingham House was built—and was deemed one of the greatest houses of the kingdom, as we shall see in the following chapter.

In 1710 Buckingham re-entered politics, as the Whig Government, which had been in power for a long time, fell that year, and Tory Buckingham was one of the first to be reinstated. In 1711 he was made Lord President of the Council, and in 1714, on the death of Queen Anne, he was one of the Lord Justices who ruled the country during the period between the Queen's death and the arrival of George I.

Buckingham, a Stuart at heart, never liked George I, and at the age of 66 (in 1714) he finally gave up

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public life and spent his last seven years in reading, writing, and studying. Many fine poems and verse are attributed to him, and he was certainly one of the best scholars of the day.

He died on February 24th, 1721, a man of unusual ability in almost every walk of life.

Before returning to a description of Buckingham House, that he built in 1705, a few opinions of the man, given by his contemporaries, will serve to show both his good and his bad points. He was not a public character of the same class or type as the two previous holders of the title, and he never quite gained the control of government that these other two predecessors did ; but he certainly held his position in life and kept in the foreground during four reigns.

Be it remembered that biographers are liable to get a political atmosphere into the actual description of political figures, so, in the case of Buckingham, we get many distortions and opinions of the same man—so much so that it would be hard to reconcile the accounts as being pen portraits of the man if his name was not mentioned.

Turning to the general character of John Sheffield, Duke of Buckingham, we come to a host of conflicting reports from almost every writer of those times. Some few are flattering—many are not. In any case, the frequency and openness with which his moral actions are discussed goes to prove that he was one of the figure-heads of his day—as indeed his record of achievements in politics alone has shown.

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First and foremost, Buckingham was eminently a man of remarkable intellect, swift in decision and capable of grasping any opportunities with an eye to the future. He lived in a period of transition, a period suited to his intellectual sharpness, and a period which taught him to "run with the hare and hunt with the hounds."

His character and actions were moulded by his military service and Court escapades under Charles II, his tactful control of the Catholic influences under James II, his clever escape from banishment under the Protestant William and Mary régime, and his ultimate popularity under Queen Anne.

Buckingham has come down to us as an unscrupulous, pleasure-loving, public-office-seeking dandy, but then, facts so often belie actions, especially historical actions.

The student of history is always taught to "look for the reason of things," and by so doing to try to analyse the undercurrents of the times in order to better understand the motives which prompted certain actions. Buckingham may have regarded the holding of public office as a means of procuring profit—he probably was what we call to-day a "professional politician"; but he had confidence in his own powers of perception and oratory, and such confidence was fully justified by the way he handled many difficult historical situations under the four monarchs he was called upon to serve in an executive capacity.

His pleasures were gambling, women, study, and building. Foremost of his vices was gambling.

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His parties at Marylebone were nation-wide famous—and he annually won and lost huge sums at the gaming tables and at cock-fighting. This is often the way with keenly intelligent men endowed with the gift of personality.

So is the love of women, and in this instance Buckingham learnt his lessons at the Court of Charles II, and soon perceived that his studied deportment and his pleasing laugh were well worth cultivating.

The famous Johnson says :

“ His character is not to be professed as worthy of imitation. . . .

“ His morality was such as naturally proceeds from loose opinions. His sentiments with respect to women he picked up in the Court of Charles, and his principles concerning property were such as a gaming-table supplies. He was sensual and covetous, and has been defended by an instance of inattention to his affairs, as if a man might not at once be corrupted by avarice and idleness. He is said, however, to have had much tenderness, and to have been very ready to apologize for his violence of passion.”

Sandford, a biographer of the times, is more sympathetic :

“ Sheffield was tall, and though not perhaps the most exactly shaped, he being thought a little too long-waisted, and rather narrow in his chest and

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shoulders, yet altogether he looked more like a man of quality than most of his rank, who were his contemporaries. He was allowed to be handsome, his face being a regular oval, and all the features of it well-proportioned. His countenance had an extraordinary sweetness, joined with a lively and penetrating look, which at first sight struck you with an idea of that great understanding of which he gave the world such various proofs. He had one thing in particular, that laughing heartily, which is seldom advantageous to anybody, was in him uncommonly agreeable. As to his manner he was reported not to be good-natured, and to be very haughty and proud, whereas he was really good-natured, and so tender that, upon seeing in the streets any real object of compassion, he has several times been touched to a degree of bringing tears into his eyes. He was affected in the same manner upon reading a melancholy story, or hearing of any friendly and generous behaviour. He was a little passionate, and sometimes quick upon people that had given him no occasion, which was the case sometimes of his most familiar friends, or gentlemen who came freely to visit him, but then he was never easy until he had made them some amends. When he was disobliged by his equals, or even by his King to his thinking not well treated, he carried it pretty high till he had got the better of the first, and prevailed on the other to change his proceedings more to his satisfaction. But except upon such occasions no man on earth could carry

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himself with more good breeding and humanity.

“He was by many thought not to have made a very good husband to his first and second wives, yet this second had by a former husband two daughters, whom he always treated with the greatest respect and kindness, as they themselves always acknowledged, and after her death he contributed to marry one of her daughters to one of the best matches in the kingdom.

“The liberties which he allowed himself in relation to the ladies are well known. Yet this ought to be remarked as a proof of his good sense that none of his mistresses could ever prevail upon him to marry foolishly, or ever gain too great an ascendant over him, and some years before his death he showed a good deal of concern for that kind of libertinism into which an impetuosity of temper, too much neglected in his education, together with the prevailing fashion of that Court in which he lived, had too often hurried him.

“He was by his worst enemies allowed to have lived always very kindly with his last wife. Whenever she was very ill or in danger, he showed all possible marks of concern, and when there was more than ordinary danger, his servants often found him on his knees in prayer, vowing to give several hundred pounds at a time to charity, which vow he always carried out.

“He was thought to be too saving in money matters, but that opinion was occasioned by little trifling incidents, or rather an humour which indiscreet people knew not how to manage, for in

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reality he was not to be called covetous. It is certain his affection to his last duchess overbalanced his disposition that way, for he always paid her pin-money to a day, and notwithstanding some ill incidents to his fortune might have justified an omission or delay, when his pension from the Crown of £1,200 a year, part of the provision made for her by King James II (the payment of which, by the ill offices of a favourite at Court, had been for some time discontinued), and when by a just representation to Queen Anne by Lord-Treasurer Oxford that pension began to be repaid, he always brought the money to her, desiring her to take what part of it she pleased for her own use, of which she always took one-third."

But there is a strong indication of his neglecting money matters too much. He lost a great part of his fortune merely through an indolence and unwillingness to take the pains to visit his estates at some distance from London in the space of 40 years.

In a word, he was a good husband, a just and tender father, a constant, zealous friend, and, one may add, the most agreeable of companions.

On Buckingham's death, his Duchess was able to indulge to the full her extraordinary vanity and to boast her "natural" parentage to the Royal Family.

Her first action was to arrange for her husband's body to lie in state in Buckingham House, and from there to be conveyed to Westminster Abbey for

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burial with the greatest possible pomp and ceremony.

In his will Buckingham left £500 for a monument to be erected in Henry VII chapel, with an inscription which reads :

“ Dubuis sed non improbus vixi
Incertus morior sed inturbatus
Humanum est nexire et arrare
Cristum adveneror, Deo confido,
Omnipotenti, benevolentissimo,
Ens Entuim miserere mihi.”

Also an inscription was added :

“ In the reign of King Charles II he was General of Dutch troop of Horse, Governor of Kingston Castle upon Hull, and First Gentleman of the Bedchamber.

“ In that of James II, Lord Chamberlain, and in that of Queen Anne, Lord Privy Seal and President of the Council. He was in youth an excellent poet, and in his more advanced years, a fine writer.”

CHAPTER VIII

BUCKINGHAM HOUSE, 1703-1742

WE left the story of the site of Buckingham Palace at a fire which occurred about 1703, and at the time of the purchase of Arlington House from the Duchess of Grafton.

The Duke of Devonshire vacated Arlington House to move into his own Devonshire House, and Buckingham thereupon pulled down the remains to build upon its site a really first-class mansion—always presuming that Arlington House was not considered princely, even in the previous reign.

This new house, named Buckingham House, was built a little more to the north, and faced east instead of south, and at once called forth a host of descriptions from historians, biographers, surveyors, and writers of the day.

It was built on the land of 27 acres 1 rood 37 perches, with the 4-acre "Mulberry Garden" conveyed in 1673, and the addition of 2 roods 9 perches appropriated from "waste" in front of St. James's Park and assented to by Queen Anne. It stood at the south-eastern corner of the property, facing east by south.

As belonging to one of the most important men in the land, and being well in the public eye, opposite St. James's Royal Palace, there can be no doubt as to the comment it raised. Some called it the most beautiful mansion in London, some—possibly not

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daring to say too much in disparagement—compromised with remarks to the effect that its architecture was not “absolutely perfect,” and showed no originality of thought.

All agree, however, that Buckingham chose the right site for his house, and used the natural lie of the ground to the best advantage; for it afforded him a view down the Mall, on one side, Constitution Hill on the other, and Chelsea Fields, backed by Westminster Abbey, to the south-east.

The reproduction of an old print shows the house as it actually was. To our modern way of thinking it may not have been beautiful, and certainly gives the impression of a mixed style put together in rather a disconnected manner.

Be it remembered, however, that at this period there was quite an architectural fashion in forming “wings” to the main house and connecting them with colonnades.

In fact, colonnade structures persisted right through to the time of Nash in 1820, and old London was full of them during the eighteenth century. The most famous were the Drury Lane and Covent Garden Colonnades, while at a later date Nash still kept the colonnade feature when building Regent Street and Piccadilly.

Carlton House Terrace even to-day shows signs of the colonnade influence.

Architectural critics of Buckingham House, however, lay stress on the fact that the wings did not keep to the same style as the main building. Many

BUCKINGHAM HOUSE, 1703-1742

commented also on the statues on the top of the main building.

They certainly seem out of place, and are dwarfed by the chimneys at the back. Railings were usual in those days, and any nobleman of standing was expected to indulge in a fine pair of wrought-iron gates. In this particular instance the Duke's Coronet, Arms, and Garter were represented.

Some say that the windows were too big—but this to-day would be considered a good feature for the comfort and ease of the owner of the property. In those days, of course, small windows were the fashion—good daylight and fresh air being of no consequence inside the house.

Buckingham therefore inclined to modern instincts in his preference for light and air.

Buckingham House stood exactly on the site of Buckingham Palace to-day, and lasted just over 100 years until 1823.

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To show the real value of Buckingham House to its owner during the latter years of his life, one cannot do better than quote the famous letter written by Buckingham to the Duke of Shrewsbury, which gives an insight to the spaciousness of the building, and a vivid idea of the great powers of literature and mastery of words which this remarkable man possessed :

“ I rise now in summer, about seven o'clock, a very large bedchamber (entirely quiet, high, and

free from the early sun) to walk in the garden, or if raining, in a Salon filled with pictures, some good, but none disagreeable ; there also, in a row above them, I have so many portraits of famous persons in several kinds, as are enough to excite ambition in any man less lazy, or less at ease, than myself.

“ Instead of a little dosing closet (according to the unwholesome custom of most people), I choose this spacious room, for all my small affairs, reading books or writing letters ; where I am never in the least tired, by the help of stretching my legs sometimes in so long a room, and by looking into the pleasantest part in the world just underneath.

“ Visits after a certain hour are not to be avoided, some of which I own a little fatiguing (though thanks to the town’s laziness they come pretty late) if the garden were not so near, as to give a seasonable refreshment between these ceremonious interruptions. And I am more sorry than my coachman himself if I am forced to go abroad any part of the morning. For though my garden is such, as by not pretending to rarities or curiosities, has nothing in it to inveigh one’s thoughts, yet by the advantage of situation and prospect it is able to suggest the noblest that can be, in presenting at once to view a vast Town, a Palace, and a magnificent Cathedral. I confess the last with all its splendour, has less share in exciting my devotion, than the most common snail in my garden. For though I am apt to be sincerely devout in any sort of religious assemblies, from the very best (that of our own Church) even

to those of Jews, Turks, and Indians, yet the works of nature appear to me the better sort of sermons, and every flower contains in it the most edifying rhetorick to fill us with admiration of its omnipotent Creator.

“After I have dined (either agreeably with friends, or at worst with better company than your country neighbours) I drive away to a Place (Marybone) of air and exercise; which some constitutions are in absolute need of; agitation of the body, and diversion of the mind, being a composition for health above all the skill of Hippocrates.

“The small distance of this place from London, is just enough for recovering my weariness, and recruiting my spirits, so as to make me fitter than before I set out, for either business or pleasure. At the mentioning the last of these, methinks I see you smile, but I confess myself so changed (which you maliciously, I know, will call decayed) as to my former enchanting delights, that the company I commonly find at home is agreeable enough to make me conclude the evening on a delightful Terrace, or in a Place free from late visits, except of familiar acquaintances.

“By this account you will see, that most of my time is conjugally spent at home, and consequently you will blame my laziness more than ever, for not employing it in a way, which your partiality is wont to think me capable of. Therefore I am obliged to go on with this trifling description, as some excuse for my idleness. But

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how such a description itself is excusable is what I should be very much in pain about, if I thought any body could see it besides your self, who are too good a judge of all things to mistake a friend's compliance in a private letter, for the least touch of Vanity.

“The Avenues to the house are along St. James's Park, through rows of goodly elms on one hand and gay flourishing lines on the other, that for coaches, this for walking ; with the Mall lying between them. This reaches to my iron palisade that incompasses a square court, which has in its midst a great bason with statues and water works, and from its entrance, rises all the way imperceptibly till we mount to a Terrace in the front of a large Hall, paved with square white stones mixed with a dark-coloured marble, the walls of it covered with a sett of pictures done in the school of Raphael. Out of this, on the right hand, we go into a parlour 33 foot by 39, with a niche 15 foot broad for a Buvette, paved with white marble, and placed within an arch, with Pilasters of diverse colours, the upper part of which as high as the ceiling is painted by Ricci.

“From hence we pass through a suite of large rooms, into a bedchamber of 34 foot by 27, within it a large closet which opens out into a greenhouse.

“On the upper hand of the hall are three stone arches supported by Corinthian pillars, under one of which we go up eight and forty steps, ten foot broad, each step of one entire Portland stone.



VIEW OF BUCKINGHAM HOUSE, 1775

From an Old Print

These stairs, by the help of two resting places, are so very easy there is no need of leaning on the iron balluster. The walls are painted with the story of Dido ; whom though the Poet was obliged to despatch away mournfully in order to make room for Lavinia, the better-natured Painter has brought no further than to that fatal cave, where the lovers appear just entering, and languishing with desire.

“ The roof of this staircase, which is 55 foot from the ground, is of 40 foot by 36, filled with the figures of Gods and Goddesses, the midst is Juno, condescending to beg assistance from Venus, to bring about a marriage which the fates intended should be the ruin of her own darling Queen and People. By which that sublime Poet wisely intimates, that we should never be over-eager for anything, either in our pursuits, or our prayers, lest what we endeavour to ask too violently for our interest, should be granted us by Providence only in order to our ruin.

“ The bas-reliefs and little squares above, are all episodical paintings of the same story. And the largeness of the whole has admitted of a sure remedy against any decay of the colours from saltpetre in the wall, by making another of oak-laths four inches within it, and so primed over like a picture.

“ From a wide landing-place on the stairheads, a great double-door opens into an apartment of the same dimensions with that below, only three foot higher. Notwithstanding which, it would appear too low, if the higher Salon had not been

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divided from it. The first room of this floor has within it a closet of original pictures which yet are not so entertaining as the delightful prospect from the windows. Out of the second room a pair of great doors give entrance into the Salon, which is 35 foot high, 36 broad and 45 long. In the midst of its roof a round picture of Gentileschi, 18 foot in diameter, represents the Muses playing in comfort to Apollo, lying along on a cloud to hear them. The rest of the room is adorned with paintings relating to Arts and Science, and underneath divers original pictures hang all in good lights, by the help of an upper row of windows which drown the glaring.

“ . . . This seems appertaining to parade, and therefore I am glad to leave it to describe the rest, which is all for conveniency. As first, a covered passage from the kitchen without doors; and another to the cellars and all the offices within. Near this, a large and lightsome back stairs leads up to such an entry above, as secures our private bedchambers both from noise and cold. Here we have necessary dressing rooms, servants' rooms, and closets, from which are the pleasantest views of all the house, with a little door for communication betwixt the private apartment and the great one.

“ These stairs, and those of the same kind at the other end of the house, carry us up to the highest story, fitted for the women and children, with the floors so contrived as to prevent all noise over my wife's head. . . .

“ In mentioning the Court at first I forgot the two wings in it, built on stone arches, which join the house by corridors supported on Ionic pillars. In one of these wings is a large kitchen 30 foot high, with an open cupola on the top ; near it a larder, brew-house, and laundry, with rooms over them for servants ; the upper sort of servants are lodged in the other wing, which has also two ward-robes and a storeroom for fruit : On the top of all a leaden cistern holding fifty tons of water, driven up by an engine from the Thames, supplies all the water-works in the courts and gardens, which lie quite round the house, through one of which a grass walk conducts to the stables, built round a court, with six coach houses and 40 stalls.

“ I'll add but one thing, before I carry you into the garden, and that is about walking, too, but 'tis on the top of all the house ; which being covered with smooth mill'd lead, and defended by a parapet of ballusters from all apprehension as well as danger, entertains the eye with a far distant prospect of hills and dales, and a near one of parks and gardens. To these gardens we go down from the house by seven steps, into a gravel walk that reaches across the whole garden, with a covered arbour at each end of it. Another of 30 foot broad leads from the front of the house, and lies between two groves of tall lime trees planted in several equal ranks upon a carpet of grass ; the outsides of these groves are bordered with tubs of Bays and Orange-trees.

“ At the end of this broad walk, you go up to a

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Terrace 400 paces long, with a large Semicircle in the middle, from whence is beheld the Queen's two parks, and a great part of Surrey ; then going down a few steps you walk on the banks of a canal 600 yards long, and 17 broad, with two rows of Limes on each side.

“ On one side of this Terrace a wall covered with Roses and Jessamines is made low to admit the view of a meadow full of cattle just under it (no disagreeable object in the midst of a great City) and at each end a descent into parterres with fountains and water-works.

“ From the biggest of these parterres we pass into a little square garden that has a fountain in the middle, and two green houses on the sides, with a convenient bathing apartment in one of them, and near another part of it lies a flower garden. Below all this, a kitchen garden full of the best sorts of fruit, has several walks in it fit for the coldest weather.

“ Thus I have done with a tedious description : Only one thing I forgot, though of more satisfaction to me than all the rest, which I fancy you guess already, and 'tis the little closet of Books at the end of that green-house which joins the best apartment, which besides their being so very near, are ranked in such a method, that by its mark a very Irish footman may fetch any book I want.

“ Under the windows of this closet and green-house is a little wilderness full of black birds and nightingales. The Trees, though planted by myself, require lopping already, to prevent their

hindering the view of that fine canal in the Park.

"After all this, to a friend I'll expose my weakness, as an instance of the mind's unquietness under the most pleasing enjoyments. I am oftener missing a pretty gallery in the old house¹ I pulled down, than pleased with a Salon which I built in its stead, though a thousand times better in all manner of respects."

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With the death of Buckingham, his Duchess continued to live in state at Buckingham House. It will be remembered that she was an illegitimate daughter of James II, and she now gave full vent to her natural eccentricities. In her case, she seems to have had a rooted impression that the Stuart dynasty was still on the throne, and she behaved as if she herself were the Queen of England. Her eccentricities were the talk of the town.

Her staff and her personal ladies had to treat her as a Royal personage. On leaving the room they had to bow themselves out, and on no account could they sit in her presence.

Unfortunately, finding her paid servants quite amenable to her ideas, she thought that the whole of the nobility could be treated the same way—with the result that there are many interesting episodes of the times told by contemporary writers. Some of these episodes show that a considerable amount of

¹ Old Arlington House has a famous gallery walk in the library, with a board at each end, fitted with pegs, so that the exact computation for walking one mile was easily checked.

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“ baiting ” must have taken place, which the mad Duchess was too overcome with her own importance to perceive.

In any case, Buckingham House became a hot-bed of Jacobite intrigue for many years, and vast sums of money must have been spent on futile plots and counter-plots.

The Duchess was known to have dressed in black on the anniversary the Martyr King, her grandfather, was executed ; and also on the day that her father, James II, fled the country. Her pilgrimages to his tomb in a church in Paris were frequent, and her travels during the next twenty years occupied a great deal of her time.

Even on the Continent she tried to impress the nobility of each country she visited with her regal entourage and mode of living and dress.

She died in 1742, and arranged another very sumptuous funeral, having gone into the details and rehearsed the procedure for quite a long time before her death. She is buried by the side of her husband in Westminster Abbey.

Her son, Edmund, having died before reaching his majority, the estate passed into the hands of Charles Herbert, an illegitimate son of the late Duke by a Mrs. Lambert, who, by the Duke's will, had to take the name of Sheffield to inherit the property.

The title naturally became extinct, but Charles Herbert Sheffield married, had a family, and was created a baronet in 1755.

CHAPTER IX

QUEEN'S HOUSE, 1762-1820

DURING the widowhood of the Duchess of Buckingham many changes took place in England.

George I, a Hanoverian King who spoke no English, came to the throne, died, and George II succeeded him. He in turn died in 1760, and was followed by King George III.

Buckingham House had a quiet history from a national point of view during these years, for with the death of the Duchess in 1742, Charles Herbert was not able, nor inclined, to maintain the former pomp and show.

The first serious suggestion that Buckingham House should be the residence of Royalty seems to have been in 1723, when the Prince of Wales (later George II) approached the Duchess with a view to buying the property. A letter from the Duchess at this time may be well worth quoting in part :

“ If Their Royal Highnesses will have everything stand as it does, furniture and pictures, I will have £3,000 per annum. Both run hazard of being spoilt, and at the last, to be sure, will be all to be new bought whenever my son is of age. The quantity the rooms take cannot be well furnished under £10,000 ; and if Their Highnesses will permit the pictures all to be removed, and buy the furniture as it will be valued by

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different people, the house shall go at £2,000—if the Prince and Princess prefer the buying outright, under £60,000 it will not be parted with as it now stands, and all His Majesty's revenue cannot purchase a place so fit for them, nor for less a sum.”¹

As we know, the deal fell through.

However, in 1762 Sir Charles Sheffield sold the remainder of his short lease of about eleven years to King George III, who bestowed it as a dowry on his Queen Charlotte—and Buckingham Palace became State property.

The Minutes of Agreement and other documents relative to the sale are now in the Royal Archives at Windsor.

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In many respects the course of the history of Goring House has now changed completely. The Cavalier days are over, and in their place we shall see the solid, peaceful habitation of a homely King and his Consort.

Buckingham Palace remains very much the same, but its atmosphere—its inner life—becomes more placid and commonplace.

Imagine for a moment the past glories of this plot of land under the tenancy of the free-and-easy Cavalier Goring ; the political intrigues and romantic adventures of the Earl of Arlington—that versatile statesman of an unsettled age ; and the sumptuous mansion inhabited by the Duke of Buckingham and

¹ *Suffolk Papers*, vol. I, p. 117.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, 1762-1820

afterwards controlled by his Duchess in semi-state.

The property has already passed the entire round of the wheel of fortune, fate, and chance ; sequestered as stables and barracks under the Commonwealth, broken into and despoiled by members of the Denny family, twice burned to the ground, used as the official residence of visiting ambassadors, the centre of intrigue and Jacobite plots, the home of Papists, the social rendezvous of the élite of England—even at one time the “public gardens” of a dissolute period—and now the official residence of the King of the greatest of all conglomerations of peoples—the British Empire.

On the completion of the sale it was not long before King George and Queen Charlotte took up residence.

St. James's Palace and Kensington Palace were retained for ceremonial occasions.

The actual move took place on June 6th, 1762—the King's birthday celebrations being postponed from June 4th to coincide with the house-warming. This brilliant function was organized entirely by the Queen as a surprise for her husband, and when the evening of the 6th arrived, he was summoned by Her Majesty, taken to an upper room on the garden side of the Palace, and there shown a wonderful illuminated tableau lit with several thousands of coloured lamps. The entertainment was rounded off with a cold supper of immense proportions to feed the entire social world who came to the house-party.

No one ever moves into a house without making

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alterations. Several were made at Buckingham House, but nothing very startling.

The figures which surmounted the façade seem to have been taken down at an earlier date. The façade was otherwise left unchanged, but the railings with their wrought-iron gates were altered: two smaller gates, one on each side of the façade (in the same relative position as to-day), were fixed instead. The stables were enlarged towards what is now Buckingham Palace Road, to include a covered riding school, and two oblong and one octagon rooms were built on the ground-floor for the purpose of the growing library, with a bookbinding room and various offices off of it.

The Office of Works accounts for this change of residence show £13,885 14s. 6½d. as having been spent during 1762-1763. The "Riding House" cost a further £9,757, and was evidently built in 1764; while £10,197 seems to have been spent in other building sundries—most probably including the removal of valuable furniture and pictures to Buckingham House from St. James's Palace, Hampton Court Palace, and Kensington Palace.

George III had one great hobby—that of collecting books. It was he who started the great library which has become famous the world over.

Commencing in quite a small way, George III collected the works of all the best authors—political, travel, and fiction—of each country. As has been seen, special accommodation had to be made for it, and this hobby remained, up to the King's blindness, as his principal indoor recreation. It is said, how-

QUEEN'S HOUSE, 1762-1820

ever, that he gave strict instructions that none of his agents was to bid at a public auction against any person of moderate means, who appeared to want any certain book for the purpose of study.

The Royal couple lived a quiet and frugal life, bringing up a large family of fifteen children between 1762 and 1783. Fourteen of these children lived.

We read that on August 12th, 1783, the Prince of Wales came of age, but the celebrations which should have accompanied that event had to be postponed, as the Queen had given birth to her fifteenth child only five days before.

There are many descriptions of the placid life at Queen's House during these many years—for George III lived to 1820—but these accounts seem so commonplace that they make uninteresting reading, even the most important anecdote having to be belaboured before the point becomes of interest.

In 1775 Buckingham House was settled on Queen Charlotte by Act of Parliament in exchange for Somerset House, at that time partly used for picture exhibitions in connexion with the Royal Academy of Arts ; and later to become the headquarters of the Inland Revenue Department.

Politically, the reign of George III is packed with blunders and mistakes, which cost the English people heavily.

George III was stubborn to a degree, and tried to rule his country by himself, forgetful that his sovereign powers were not so wide as during the Stuart régime.

He formed his own party in Parliament, and

through them was eventually able to rule by getting ministers of his own choice. This caused a great deal of dissatisfaction, as the best men were thus continually kept from office.

He also gave his subjects further cause for complaint by his retiring nature. In fact, so little did he show himself, that he became known as Farmer George, and many a scurrilous poem was written with him as its object.

On the few occasions when he did go out, he was not always kindly received, and on two different occasions riots broke out with the Queen's House as one of the objectives. In fact, on the second occasion, in 1780, he actually had to station some thousands of troops in the Palace stables and gardens overnight until the rioters were more or less peaceably persuaded to move to other points. On these occasions of stress he showed great personal courage, and would always want to take the lead, quite irrespective of personal danger.

His life was attempted more than once, but he always escaped unhurt—some protecting providence seemed to have been with him.

These riots and attempted assassinations do not necessarily go to prove that George III was unpopular, for during his illnesses, later in life, he had the sympathy of his people.

George seems to have kept all these political events away from his home, and it is quite likely that his Queen knew little of the struggles and annoyances which beset him during the first twenty-five years of his reign. Queen's House was his home—plain and simple.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, 1762-1820

The first serious upset in this household was the King's illness in 1788, which was put down at the time to too much violent exercise—for George was very fat and tried to keep his weight down. In any case, he caught a chill following some of his strenuous exertions, and was in bed for some months.

At this period his mental derangement began to show itself, but with his recovery to health it seemed to clear away again, although many at that time noticed his strange ways.

He took to his normal life again, which included frequent evening concerts at Queen's House, attended by many of the greater German masters of those times, who had special invitations to the Royal presence; for George III did a lot for music, and encouraged a number of promising artists from all parts of Europe.

Following further attacks on his life, and more political unrest—this time mostly “sympathetic hooliganism” occasioned by our proximity to the French Revolution—the King again showed signs of insanity—signs which were not helped by the loss of his sight in one eye, nor by the degenerate licentious behaviour of the Prince of Wales—one of the worst rakes in history.

By 1808, the year of his Jubilee, he was almost totally blind, and retired to Windsor, while in 1811 he was quite insane, and a Regency Bill was passed giving the powers of government to the Prince of Wales.

George III died in 1820, twelve months after his consort, and the throne passed to a profligate of the worst possible type—George IV.

CHAPTER X

THE BUILDING OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE, 1822-1835

(I) 1822-1830

No better monarch could have been found for the purpose of building a really expensive Royal Palace than George IV. He was a king who had no idea of the value of money, who led a profligate life from quite early times, and who continually dabbled in expensive building schemes at the nation's expense. George IV set to work, as soon as his Coronation was over, in an endeavour to draw up a suitable scheme for his Royal residence.

Fortunately for all concerned, he was really interested in what he undertook, and his former experience and intelligence used in the building of the semi-oriental Pavilion at Brighton for £750,000 and his property at Carlton House stood him in good stead, once the new project was under way. The mere cost of three-quarters of a million sterling—paid by the nation—did not enter into the question; except at settling-up time, when considerable difficulties were repeatedly encountered by the King and his architect in obtaining money on "supplementary estimates" from an unwilling Parliament.

The particular period was one well in keeping with new ideas and expansion in building, for the Napoleonic Wars were just over, and London, like

BUILDING BUCKINGHAM PALACE

every other city in Europe, was engrossed in a "housing boom" which added hundreds of acres and thousands of houses to the English capital.

During this period Regent Street was built on plans drawn out by John Nash. Portman Place, Grosvenor Square, Carlton House Terrace, and, in fact, the majority of stucco-fronted painted houses around Mayfair, as well as Regent's Park, date from the time of the 1820-1830 building boom; which compares almost exactly with our 1920-1930 building boom and the wholesale erection of houses of one particular type on the outskirts of London. Remember that in 1820 Belgravia and Regent's Park, along with St. John's Wood and north towards Hampstead, were still fields—or at the best ill-developed suburbs—of the then expanding "City of London" as opposed to the "Metropolis of London" of to-day.

Already, as Prince Regent, George had converted Windsor Castle with great skill from a medley of mediæval buildings into a feudal castle on the most distinct lines, under the supervision of the architect Wyattville.

Towards the end of the Regency, Brighton Pavilion, that exotic semi-oriental palace, was adapted to suit the whims of a monarch whose moral character will not bear inspection. For years, experiments at combining the real oriental style with types of European architecture had been tried with but little success; until John Nash achieved this Eastern replica with the help and encouragement of his Royal sponsor.

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Upon his accession to the throne as George IV, it was therefore not surprising that the erstwhile Prince Regent should have decided to build a palace worthy of the Empire, despite the strong measures which had been brought to bear on his extravagances in the past.

For George IV had had to apply to Parliament to pay his debts on more than one occasion before and during his Regency. He squandered vast sums on riotous living, on Brighton Pavilion, and, last and perhaps most expensive of all, on his residence at Carlton House, which he occupied from 1783 until it was pulled down in 1826.

In fact, it is possible that George IV had become so used to his surroundings in Carlton House as to yearn for something better, despite the fact that he already occupied the finest house in the land, filled with pictures and furniture of a standard unequalled by any other monarch.

So devastating were the building activities of George IV as Regent, that as far back as in 1812-1813 a Royal Commission had been appointed to enquire into the ways and means of the Office of Works. Be it stated that the Office of Works was responsible for all public buildings, and the gravity of the charge of squandering millions without apparent proper supervision on the various Royal residences, was one which could not be lightly overlooked by Parliament.

The Office of Works was indeed between the devil and the deep sea, for while responsible to Parliament and the people for economic spending on the one

hand, it could not prohibit the King from wasting on the other.

This seems to have led to a reorganization of that Office, for in 1815 three consulting architects were appointed in the place of one, in order that better supervision could be afforded. These three men were Smirke, Soane, and Nash. The Westminster area, which included "The Dower House," was really in the charge of Soane, but it was Nash who actually had the handling of the alterations, as we shall now see.

Soane was certainly given the first instructions with regard to preparing plans for a new palace, for it is possible that Nash was too occupied at the time in altering land north of Oxford Street and designing Regent's Park; planned on the site of the one-time Marylebone Fields about the year 1821.

With the death of Queen Charlotte in 1819, the possibility of rebuilding her Dower House seems to have been given its first serious consideration. A sum of £150,000 was mentioned for this purpose as being the utmost obtainable within three years from the revenues from Crown Lands. This suggestion was turned down as totally inadequate—the Prince Regent suggesting that £150,000 to £200,000 might suffice for the structure and a further £200,000 for the fittings and appointments, with another £100,000 for furniture.

The idea had by now got hold of George IV's imagination, and despite the Parliamentary warning of "insurmountable objections" should the £150,000 be overstepped, the King determined to put the

whole question before the House of Commons. Even at that time it was realized that the estimated cost of a new palace would be well in excess of the first suggestions, as Parliamentary papers and notes from the Office of Works still show to this day. As a matter of fact, the finished building (apart from the Mall), as inhabited by Queen Victoria, cost £720,000.

After their previous experiences with the Prince Regent over other building schemes, the Houses of Parliament were justified in being careful, so that we find an item amongst records of the times which stated that no extra work was to be undertaken the expense of which would be a charge on the Civil List revenue, "even at His Majesty's commands," unless a detailed estimate was submitted and an order sanctioned by the Lords of the Treasury to the Office of Works.

Though this form was observed, George IV managed to get his estimates submitted after the expense had been incurred—which was certainly one way out of the difficulty.

It was not until June 1825—six years after the preliminary conference on the project—that anything was done in regard to Queen's House.

Attention was then quickly focused on the new scheme by the fact that Carlton House, the King's official residence at the time, was in an unsafe condition.

We read that—

"Whenever a large assembly was held in the

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upper rooms, it became necessary to prop up the lower ones " and that " so far from His Majesty wishing to leave the house, the house seemed disposed to leave His Majesty." ¹

It would have been nice if old Buckingham House, with its memories of George III, Queen Charlotte, and the several previous tenants, could have been preserved—along with its painted staircase. This was actually suggested, but as the King stated that he did not wish to encroach on public parks in order to build a new palace, the scheme was dropped.

Some time later, when Nash was called upon to defend his actions in regard to the expenditure he incurred over the new Buckingham Palace, he wrote as follows ² :

" His late Majesty's intentions and commands were to convert Buckingham House into a private residence for himself. While this plan was forming, and in observing that my plan was being enlarged, I continually urged His Majesty to build in some other situation, and made several plans for the purpose, using all the arguments in my power to dissuade His Majesty from adding to the old Palace, but without any effect ; for the late King constantly persisted that he would not build a new palace but would add to the present house. I then urged His Majesty to pull down the house

¹ Lord Liverpool, Debate on Buckingham House Land Revenue Act.

² Chairman of the Select Committee, Report on Buckingham Palace, 1831.

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and rebuild it higher up the garden, i.e. in a line with the Mall.

“ . . . But one day, either at Buckingham House, or at Kensington, His Majesty took me to Lord Farnborough and said good humouredly, ‘ Long, now remember, I tell Nash before you, at his peril ever to advise me to build a palace. If the public wish to have a palace I have no objection to building one, but I must have a pied-à-terre. I do not like Carlton House standing in a street, and moreover I tell him, that I will have it at Buckingham House. If he pulls it down he shall rebuild it in the same place. There are early associations which endear me to the spot.’ . . .

The next step was to get the proposed alterations to Buckingham House passed by Parliament. On June 9th, 1825, a Bill came before the House of Commons for “ a repair and improvement to Buckingham House ” at the estimated cost of £200,000. This was agreed to without much discussion, it not being the Parliamentary policy to call attention to the rebuilding at that moment due to financial stringency and the possibility of trouble if the people at large got to know too much of the scheme.

Needless to say, that before the grant was finally passed, £90,000 had already been spent.

To conform with George IV's wishes, Nash appears to have produced plans which retained the shell of the main building exactly as it was at that time, and to have adapted the existing house for

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State-rooms, while adding accommodation for the use of the Royal Household. The present Grand Staircase occupies the position of the earlier one, and the Grand Hall is also in its same relation with the earlier entrance hall. To the north and south, however, the old central block was extended to form a long western façade (garden side), in the centre of which was added a semicircular bow window surmounted by a dome.

Be it remembered that the east façade, facing the Mall, was not then contemplated, and was not actually built until Queen Victoria had been in residence for some years and Nash had passed to another world.

The building therefore retained much the same shape and outline as during the previous reign, with one long wing on either side built out on to St. James's Park.

On the entrance front (the Mall) was set a two-storey portico of coupled Corinthian columns which survives unaltered. In front of the Palace, a little farther forward than the gates of Buckingham House, was erected the Marble Arch as a memorial to the recent victories of Trafalgar and Waterloo—thus finishing the quadrangle effect and giving the Palace a superb entrance.

The old projecting wings were taken down and new ones built farther out, with screens running outwards at right angles from their ends and designed to accommodate the guard. The Doric colonnades of these screens remain unaltered, and are still used for their original purpose—being a feature of

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the outer courtyard, and forming a background to the ceremony of the " Changing of the Guard " each day.

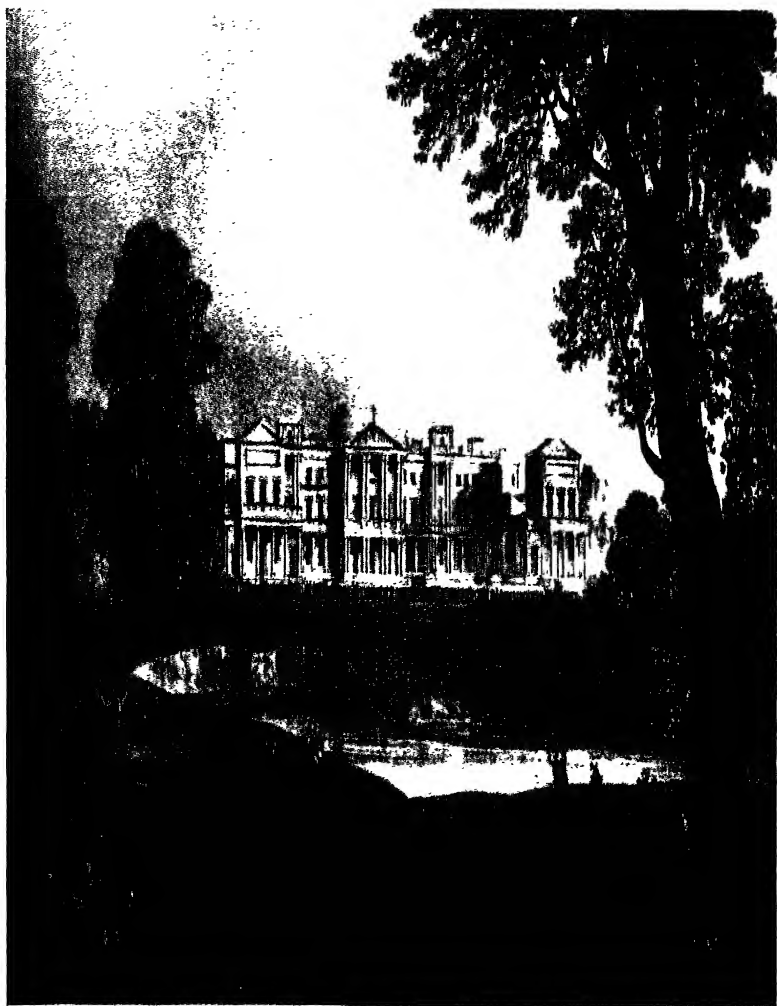
The exterior therefore retained certain of the main lines of old Buckingham House, but it was longer and higher in its proportions—retaining the main body and wings in almost the same position as the old.

It will therefore seem obvious that Nash was tied to preserving as far as possible the lines of the older building, while the King seems to have been modelling the inside after Carlton House. As a whole the combination of architect and King is quite a pleasing one, for there can be no doubt that the King got many of the rooms modelled on lines to suit the furniture and spaciousness he desired, while leaving Nash to do the best he could with the shell of the building.

One of the main objects of the architecture on the east (front) side was to lend a background to the triumphal arch (now removed to the junction of Edgware Road, Oxford Street, and Hyde Park), and known as the Marble Arch. Several prints of the Palace showing the Arch in position have been handed down to us, including a lithograph of Queen Victoria setting out from Buckingham Palace through the Marble Arch to her Coronation.

With regard to the actual building and estimates, we find that the first total of £200,000 on June 20th, 1825, was supplemented in October of the same year by a further £52,690 (including earthworks in the gardens).

These estimates did not include sculpture, of



BUCKINGHAM PALACE, 1828

By courtesy of the British Museum

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which the Palace has a great deal. Chimney-pieces, the Grand Staircase, parquet flooring, scagliola columns, and wood carvings taken from Carlton House were entered only at their cost of removal from one palace to the other, along with screens of columns on the forecourt wall of Carlton House. Early in 1828 Nash produced a schedule of fixtures for Buckingham Palace, taken from Carlton House, and entered in the estimates as of a value of £13,601 18s. 6d.

In the first place, the "Triumphal Arch" was estimated for in Bath stone at a cost of about £9,000.

A later decision to use marble must have much increased the cost.

By 1831 the cost of the Palace, allowing for its completion and furnishing, exceeded £600,000. Long before this date, however, the funds would have given out, and further Parliamentary grants most probably refused, if a supply from an unexpected source had not been forthcoming in 1827. The Treasury at this time advanced £250,000 originally intended for the adjustments of war claims with France following the defeat of Napoleon, but held in abeyance after the adjustments had been made—and most probably forming a surplus.

At this time the building was structurally finished but not fully decorated. The floors and ceilings were laid, but plaster work, marble work, and other decorations had not been applied. The foundations only for the Marble Arch were laid.

The budget by 1828 amounted to £496,000

(total), which this time included the cost of sculpture. The added expense from the first £200,000 called forth a storm of protest from the public and Parliament, and a second Commission was formed to go into the entire question.

Nash, naturally, came in for a lot of criticism.

This unfortunate architect seems to have had many difficulties to contend with, for apart from several unpleasant charges brought against him, he had the added difficulty of not being able to fully justify his expenses in view of the fresh expenditure so frequently sanctioned by the King, whom he naturally had to uphold and support as being his "client." Despite these troubles, we read, in the *Observer* of August 23rd, 1829 :

"The New Palace. His Majesty has expressed his earnest desire for the speedy completion of his new Palace, in consequence of which additional hands have been put on the work, and the number of persons employed now amounts to 1,000. At one time the enormous sum of £10,000 per week was expended on the work, but by the order of the Duke of Wellington, the issue of money is now restricted to £30,000 a quarter."

George IV died on June 26th, 1830, and Nash's commission was withdrawn, so that the work came to a standstill. Though the exterior was complete, the interior was still not fit for habitation.

The findings of the Second Commission, which stated that the actual cost to date in 1828 had

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amounted to £496,000, fixed the liabilities at a higher figure by 1830, and found that :

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----------|----|----|
| Buildings, etc. | 500,741 | 0 | 0 |
| For work completed and delivered there was due | 54,964 | 8 | 9 |
| For work in progress but not com- pleted | 42,177 | 0 | 0 |
| Necessary to complete | 15,414 | 0 | 0 |
| | £613,296 | 8 | 9 |

After considerable cross-examination, Nash retired to his house at East Cowes, and died in 1835 at the age of 82.

(II) 1830-1837

Despite the troubles and difficulties which Nash had to contend with under George IV, it must be granted that he had built a very acceptable palace as a Royal Residence for the Head of the British Empire.

His life, during the latter part of his commission, must have been a burden to him, for money was short following the Napoleonic Wars, and the "New Palace" was used as a "plank" by succeeding Ministries to further their own political ends. Hence the second Royal Commission, which dealt so fully with his activities, brought to light the methods by which George IV and Nash had evaded the Parliamentary authority of a past year, by which all bills must be signed by the Lords of Treasury

before payment could be made for items on the Palace account.

On the whole, Nash acquitted himself well, and many of the charges of extravagance brought against him he actually turned back on the Ministry of the time.

His method of buying his own stone and giving contracts to brickyards in which he himself was interested he substantiated with honest accounts, which showed that the materials he bought were actually below other outside estimates—and in one charge, on a question of the purchase of stone, he was able to show that the particular parcel he bought was paid for at a much lower price than the Office of Works had previously valued it at.

Nash lived in a transitional period, and, being a clever architect, he was tempted to experiment with new building materials. One such experiment—which caused a further special enquiry after his death—was “the extensive and peculiar use of iron framing” in the ground-floor colonnade and certain rooms on the garden aspect. It was alleged at the time that he had miscalculated the tensile strength of some of the bearer girders, but this was not the case, for most of his “peculiar use of iron framing” remains to-day.

To view it from a different angle, we might say that Nash was one of the pioneers of steel construction.

The advent of William IV saw further changes to the Palace. Lord Duncannon—who was appointed First Commissioner of Woods and Forests in 1831—

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selected Edward Blore to assist him in forming estimates and revising tensile calculations on the Palace. A new and more businesslike method of procedure was soon apparent, and after mastering the details of the scheme Lord Duncannon (afterwards Earl of Bessborough) presented his report to Parliament.

As a result a recommendation for the completion of the Palace was agreed to (money being a little easier), and a vote of £100,000 was made towards paying off arrears of £96,778. From this time onwards the management of the building was under the Department of Woods and Forests (in charge of Royal Lands), and since William IV had expressed his intention of not living in the Palace, the task of finishing it was not hindered in any way.

A final estimate for completion, at £26,177, was made by Blore, which compared with £11,657 made by Nash and over £31,000 estimated by a report of the Commission.

For additional accommodation necessary to adapt the Palace to the needs of a resident King and Queen, a further £35,000 was estimated, making a rough total of £75,000.

Buckingham Palace thus cost about £720,000.

During 1831 and early in 1832 Blore worked on his plans. He did away with Nash's dome and roof pavilions, which had caused adverse criticism, by suggesting a complete extra floor over the entire central block.

This had the effect of making the architecture more regular. He also filled in two wells, one at

each end of the main block, which had been left for lighting purposes, and utilized the space for the present Minister's Staircase.

Incidentally, the mere construction of an extra floor on the west side goes to prove that Nash had not miscalculated the tensile strength of his iron girders, while the later addition gives a more convenient access to State Apartments in the north-west corner, at the expense of depriving the Marble Hall of natural light.

By the end of 1833 the alterations were almost complete, but operations had to be stopped for a very unusual cause. The Houses of Parliament were burnt down in 1834, and since William IV had not the building interest shown by his predecessor, he proposed to give his new unfinished Palace to Parliament and thus save renewed expense. A parliamentary crisis followed, and with the downfall of the Melbourne Ministry in the autumn of 1834, the Duke of Wellington took charge. At this time there was no Government, no Prime Minister, and no Houses of Parliament—an unparalleled event in British history.

However, the crisis passed with the forming of the Peel Government, and in 1835 the new Guard House of Buckingham Palace was officially occupied by troops.

King William IV also decided—or was persuaded—to announce his intention of living in his new Palace, and Blore made haste to get his Entrance Court and Forecourt railings into position. A further delay was caused by another sudden decision

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to light certain parts of the interior of the Palace by gas—then a new invention—but in May 1837 Duncannon reported that the building was at last ready for occupation.

William IV died a few weeks later. . . .

(III) THE MARBLE ARCH

Buckingham Palace is now actually built and about to be occupied, so before turning to the reign of Queen Victoria, an account of the Marble Arch may be of interest.

The present generation so soon forgets the actions of the last generation that it will come as a surprise to many to learn that the Marble Arch—"at Marble Arch"—was designed and formed part of Buckingham Palace from 1836 to 1851. In this latter year further additions to the Palace made it necessary to move the Arch; and in order that it should not interfere with the new façade then contemplated, it was removed to a position near the "Tyburn Gallows," at the junction of Edgware Road, Oxford Street, and Park Lane, abutting on Hyde Park. Up to a period even after the Great War, e.g. until about 1925, it overshadowed the surrounding houses. Now, with the rebuilding of the end of the Edgware Road and Cumberland Place, the Arch has lost its significance, and appears dwarfed in stature—but not in beauty—by modern architecture.

In its original glory, however, as conceived by Nash but never completed, it would have been ornamented with fine sculpture work to supplement the panels which exist on the Arch at the present

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moment. As designed, the Arch was covered with panels where now the plain marble facings exist. Many of these masterpieces of sculpture were partially finished and even paid for, but not applied—and for one reason or another the entire scheme was not completed. Most likely the death of Nash and the uncertainty attaching to the ultimate use of the unfinished Palace caused considerable restrictions which seem to have been upheld by both William IV and Queen Victoria. Of an estimated sculpture cost of over £35,000, only £5,000 was ever applied—thus leaving the Arch as we see it to-day. How different it would have looked if George IV had lived!

Apparently the original Arch was described on several occasions before it was erected.

It was to have had three gateways—the centre rising to the architrave (as we see it to-day). Over the two side gates were panels depicting, on the one side, female representatives of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and on the other, pictures of Youth. Between each arch, columns were shown supporting groups of figures. Each column was to be 20 feet high and cut from one block.

The parapet above the principal cornice was to have panels of the Battle of Waterloo on one side and Trafalgar on the other. On the projections above the columns were to be four Victories on the front, and four Dacian warriors on the back. The ends were to have had a naval and a military bas-relief respectively. On the top of the Arch it was proposed to place a pedestal with a lion and unicorn,

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Neptune, and medallion of Nelson to the front ; and Europe and Asia, Wellington, and a wreath of laurels to the back. Be it remembered that in the first place the entire building was to have been called the "Triumphal Arch," and to have been the official gateway to the Palace of the ruler of the nation that had won all the current victories in Europe and in the continent of North America.

The Arch was to have been surmounted by an equestrian statue of George IV in bronze.

It can well be understood that the sculpture for this archway would come to nearly £50,000.

The plinth and base of the archway were actually laid in 1828, but the Arch was not finished before 1831, when it was erected in the simplified form we see it to-day. It was surmounted by a flagstaff (instead of a statue), from which the Royal Standard flew when Queen Victoria was in residence. George IV was never placed in position on his archway—and he is now to be seen on a pedestal of his own opposite the National Gallery.

Beautiful wrought-iron gates were ordered for this Triumphal Arch, and Samuel Parker, one of the best workers of wrought iron in a famous age, was paid £3,000 for his workmanship in this respect. The gates in their finished state, however, were never fixed, as during transit from the foundry to the site in a "common waggon," they got badly damaged about the top, and had to be altered.

In passing, it is interesting to note that when the foundations for the Arch were laid in front of Buckingham Palace, considerable difficulty was ex-

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perienced due to the old Tyburn, enclosed many years before by Lord George Goring when reclaiming the "waste" of his section of the Manor of Eia.

Despite the expense of building the Palace and the popular outcry against expenditure on public works, we have another feeling running alongside expressing the lack of statues and monuments in London itself. Be it remembered that London, during the reign of George IV, was a growing city, and that England was on a rising tide of prosperity following the Napoleonic Wars, the discovery of Australia, and the conquest of Canada—all of which events had taken place within the memory of the living generation. One hundred years ago statues did not exist in the streets of London—although Westminster Abbey was full of beautiful carvings and sculpture work.

This lack of monuments is hard to account for, except in the fact that charity was not so rampant as it is to-day, when almost any society secretary can appeal and raise funds in the cause of some commemorative object either worthy or unworthy. In fact, under conditions of traffic and movement in this twentieth century, it is doubtful if all our modern monuments are necessary—for who, except the recognized sightseer, or tourist, has time to stop to look at statues? How many of our modern population of eight million people know the exact whereabouts of more than ten statues in the whole of London?

Be our modern conclusions of the statues of the

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past decade as they may, George IV seems to have made up his mind to give London a little of that artistic show which was by then expected of it.

By 1820 London had become the centre of the greatest nation in the world, and, according to his views, money could well be afforded in order to show foreign visitors what London stood for. With this object in view he built the Ionic Screen at Hyde Park Corner, and the Arch on Constitution Hill, as well as the Marble Arch outside his own Palace. The two former arches were the work of Decimus Burton, who was not more than 27 years of age when he designed them. Both are well-known landmarks to-day. The Constitution Hill Arch cost about £35,000, and was originally intended as the entrance to the Palace from the north-west (Hyde Park side).

The liberal-minded monarch is also credited with the idea of making an outer wall round London on the principle of the *barrières* of Paris, and the Hyde Park Screen was to have been the first of a line from Westminster through the outlying parts encircling the City.

However true this may be, the scheme was never carried through, and the Constitution Arch—which seems to lack any other name—was originally erected farther forward, with a statue of the Duke of Wellington on the top.

Possibly growing traffic conditions suggested its removal, but, in any case, in 1883 the Arch was removed to its present position, while the statue of the Duke remained on a small pedestal to mark the

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old site. In 1912 the statue was removed to a site near Aldershot.

The original project of a group of a Winged Victory on an eight-horse chariot was set upon the top in 1912, a gift to the nation by Lord Michelham as a tribute to Edward VII.

CHAPTER XI

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

QUEEN VICTORIA TO GEORGE V

ON June 21st, 1837, Queen Victoria was proclaimed, and on July 13th, with the Duchess of Kent by her side, she drove in State from Kensington Palace to take up her new residence at Buckingham Palace.

The first years of Queen Victoria have been dealt with so often, and both her call to the Throne and her Coronation have been portrayed by famous artists with such skill, that any further accounts are uncalled for in these pages.

An interesting sidelight on Royal Expenses is, however, afforded, and we find that one of the first measures of Parliament on the accession of Queen Victoria was the review of the Civil List. This was done in order to stop the abuses of the two previous reigns, and to assure the new Queen sufficient money on which to run her household.

The Lord Chamberlain, the Lord Steward, and the Master of the Horse, under William IV, were therefore called upon to furnish full particulars of the expenditure in their departments during the year 1836, and a suitable sum was then added in view of the extra expenses which the new Buckingham Palace would entail.

A basis of a State contribution towards upkeep was then formed at £385,000 per annum :

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| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| | £ |
| H.M. Privy Purse | 60,000 |
| Household Salaries | 131,260 |
| Tradesmen's Bills | 172,500 |
| Royal Bounty, Alms, and Charity . | 13,200 |
| Unappropriated money | 8,040 |
| | £385,000 |

The accounts for 1836 were as follows (without Buckingham Palace) :

LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S DEPARTMENT

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| | £ |
| Upholsterers and Cabinet-makers . | 11,381 |
| Joiners and Blind-makers | 1,038 |
| Carpet manufacturers. . . . | 225 |
| Turners, mat-layers, etc. . . . | 690 |
| Locksmiths, etc. . . . | 4,119 |
| Clockmakers, etc. . . . | 895 |
| Pianoforte-makers, etc. . . . | 356 |
| Ormolu restorers, etc. . . . | 391 |
| Japanners | 654 |
| Lamp and Lustre manufacturers . | 268 |
| Plate-glass men | 26 |
| China-men | 201 |
| Paper-hangers | 898 |
| Silk-merciers | 16 |
| Linen-drapers | 1,962 |
| Woollen-drapers | 348 |
| Furniture-printers | 12 |
| Sempstress | 284 |

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LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S DEPT.—*continued*

| | £ |
|--|---------|
| Tailors | 25 |
| Hatters | 14 |
| Hosiers and glovers | 97 |
| Stationers, etc. | 1,080 |
| Card-makers | 118 |
| Modellers and Floor-chalkers | 137 |
| Washing | 3,014 |
| Dyers | 74 |
| Soap | 479 |
| Chimney-sweepers | 150 |
| Surgeons, etc. | 1,957 |
| Artists, etc. | 400 |
| Masons, etc. | 18 |
| Allowances | 4,631 |
| Allowances | 1,578 |
| Sundry payments | 1,365 |
| Messengers' bills | 2,997 |
| Total | £41,898 |

LORD STEWARD'S DEPARTMENT.

| | £ |
|----------------------|-------|
| Bread | 2,050 |
| Butter, etc. | 4,976 |
| Milk, etc. | 1,478 |
| Meat | 9,472 |
| Poultry | 3,633 |
| Fish | 1,979 |
| Grocery | 4,644 |

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LORD STEWARD'S DEPT.—*continued*

| | £ |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Oilery | 1,793 |
| Fruit | 1,741 |
| Vegetables | 487 |
| Wine | 4,850 |
| Liqueurs | 1,843 |
| Ale | 2,811 |
| Candles (wax) | 1,977 |
| Candles (tallow) | 679 |
| Lamps | 4,660 |
| Fuel | 6,846 |
| Stationery | 824 |
| Turnery | 376 |
| Brazier | 890 |
| China, glass | 1,328 |
| Linen | 1,085 |
| Washing table-linen | 3,130 |
| Plate | 355 |
| Royal gardens | 10,569 |
| Maunday expenses | 276 |
| Royal yachts | 45 |
| Board wages | 3,615 |
| Travelling expenses | 1,050 |
| Allowances | 764 |
| Hired persons | 3,646 |
| Yeomen | 2,230 |
| Compensation | 1,244 |
| Sundries | 4,719 |
| Total | <hr/> £92,065 |

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MASTER OF THE HORSE DEPARTMENT.

| | £ |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Liveries | 6,208 |
| Forage | 5,308 |
| Farriery | 102 |
| Horses | 3,345 |
| Carriages | 4,825 |
| Harness | 567 |
| Saddlery | 577 |
| Bits and spurs | 30 |
| Whips | 46 |
| Lamps | 642 |
| Coal | 954 |
| Stationery | 48 |
| Candles | 214 |
| Turnery | 176 |
| Washing | 84 |
| Ironmongery | 182 |
| Allowance | 590 |
| Sundries | 2,822 |
| Travelling | 1,846 |
| Post horses | 1,402 |
| King's plates | 2,310 |
| Stud bills | 546 |
| Hunt bills | 5,000 |

| | |
|--|---------|
| | £38,734 |
| Deduct proceeds of useless horses sold . | 529 |
| | <hr/> |
| | £38,205 |

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| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|----------|
| Total Expenses : | | | £ |
| Lord Chamberlain's Dept. | . | . | 41,898 |
| Lord Steward's Dept. | . | . | 92,065 |
| Master of the Horse Dept. | . | . | 38,205 |
| Master of the Robes Dept. | . | . | 1,880 |
| | | | £174,048 |

Preliminaries settled, Queen Victoria made Buckingham Palace the centre of hospitality, and invited many official Royal visitors from overseas to entertainments of a type not seen since Arlington held sway at Arlington House.

This new example of the young Queen soon became popular with the general public, who had rather fretted at the large sums of money spent by previous kings on palaces from which they never emerged.

Victoria made a point of showing herself and inviting people to the Palace, so that all had some opportunity to see to what purpose so much public money had been put.

In 1839 the approaching marriage of the Queen involved alterations to the Private Apartments, which had all along been considered inadequate, while in 1842 it was decided that the octagonal chapel on the south side of the Palace was inappropriate. Blore therefore converted one of Nash's two conservatories into a chapel by raising the roof and re-equipping the interior. It was consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1843.

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From 1842 onwards Queen Victoria organized brilliant fancy-dress balls at Buckingham Palace—which, indeed, after all the money that had been spent on it, formed a worthy and colourful setting for such festivities.

In passing, let it be noted that the first of these functions was a Plantagenet Ball, organized with a view to helping the silk workers of Spitalfields (these workers seem to have been always in need of help from the environs of the old “Mulberry Garden”). Thus unwittingly the site of Goring House, the “Mulberry Garden,” and the silk industry were made to form the beginning of a new era of hospitality.

For the particular occasions guests had to be dressed in Spitalfields silk costumes of the period of Edward III and Queen Philippa, the two sovereigns being represented by Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort respectively.

On that evening the Queen's dress was adorned with more than £40,000 worth of jewellery, apart from Crown Jewels.

Quadrilles were fashionable at that period, and a series of these dances were carried out by different groups attired in the national dress of various countries. One can imagine few more picturesque entertainments in such charming surroundings, and from then onwards the Queen frequently used her palace as the setting for elaborate social meetings.

It was not very long before the existing pile of Buckingham Palace again came in for attention as to its “unsuitability.” Writing early in 1845, the

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Queen mentioned the matter to Sir Robert Peel, the Prime Minister :

“ BRIGHTON PAVILION,
“ 10th February, 1845.

“ Though the Queen knows that Sir Robert Peel has already turned his attention to the urgent necessity of doing something to Buckingham Palace, the Queen thinks it right to recommend this subject herself to his serious consideration. Sir Robert is acquainted with the state of the Palace, and the total want of accommodation for our little family which is fast growing up. Any building must necessarily take some years before it can be safely inhabited. If it were to be begun this autumn it could hardly be occupied before the spring of 1848, when the Prince of Wales would be nearly seven, and the Princess Royal nearly eight years old, and they cannot possibly be kept in the nursery any longer. A provision for this purpose ought therefore to be made this year. Independent of this, most parts of the Palace are in a sad state, and will ere long require a further outlay to render them decent for the occupation of the Royal Family or any visitors the Queen may have to receive. A room capable of containing a larger number of those persons whom the Queen has to invite in the course of the season to balls, concerts, etc., than any of the present apartments can at once hold, is much wanted.

“ Equally so, improved offices and servants' rooms, the want of which puts the departments of

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the household to great expense annually. It will be for Sir Robert to consider whether it would not be best to remedy all these deficiencies at once, and to make use of his opportunity to render the exterior of the Palace such as no longer to be a disgrace to the country, which it certainly now is. The Queen thinks the country would be better pleased to have the question of the Sovereign's residence in London so finally disposed of, than to have it so repeatedly brought before it."

Poor Buckingham Palace! As if it had not already had enough money lavished on it. . . .

Work on plans was commenced, and we find more references to Mr. Blore, who apparently enumerated the inconveniences of the private apartments in such a way as to suggest that Buckingham Palace was little better than an artisan dwelling. According to Mr. Blore, the private apartments in the north wing "were not calculated originally for a married sovereign" and the nursery department had been confined to a few rooms in the attics of the same wing. The basement of the north wing was at that time used by the Lord Chamberlain for store-rooms and workshops, "from which there was a constant noise and a continual smell of oil and glue, added to which the kitchens again, is a nuisance to the whole palace."

A sum of £150,000 was suggested to make a new east front to the Palace (façade opposite the Victoria Memorial), and completing the rectangle as it is to-day, leaving a large rectangular court inside the

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main arch ; clear out and rearrange rooms in the south wing, and make alterations to the north wing. New kitchens with offices were allowed for, and a new ballroom over the kitchens, and at the same time it was thought advisable to move the Triumphal Arch and redecorate and paint the Palace, and alter the drains.

Blore did not get his designs accepted, and was replaced by James Pennethorne, a nephew of John Nash, to whom possibly the best part of Buckingham Palace is due.

In any case, despite the amount of the extra £150,000—which seems to have been increased to about £400,000 before the work was finished—the Lords of the Treasury agreed that the nuisance the Queen complained of was so great that it was necessary for work to start immediately.

The demolition of the south wing began in December 1846, and Pennethorne's plans were put into operation. His main work consisted of the high block at the south-west corner visible from Buckingham Palace Road and across Victoria Square, and followed the same lines as Nash's original building. The two lower storeys contain kitchen and domestic offices, while the ballroom and access to the Chapel are above.

In the south wing one room was demolished and replaced by a supper-room.

The fact was, Queen Victoria's magnificent functions at the Palace during these years—functions which were really too big for the Palace to hold—were the primary cause for the additions, and made

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a new ballroom and kitchens essential. To handle 1,200 people at one time in any palace is a difficult catering feat, and one is led to suspect that the "growing up of our little family," as the Queen so aptly expressed it to Sir Robert Peel, was only a pretext.

In any case, the ballroom, finished in 1856 to the plans of Mr. Pennethorne and decorated by Grunner, cost £250,000 alone. The room was panelled in crimson silk in keeping with the style of the age, had an inlaid polished floor, and was fitted on either side with three tiers of seats. At one end was an organ taken from the Pavilion at Brighton, with a platform for the orchestra below it. The capacity of the Palace must thus have been raised to at least 2,000 guests, and as a result the Drawing Rooms held by Queen Victoria from 1868 onwards were transferred from St. James's Palace to Buckingham Palace.

Thus was Buckingham Palace finished—so far as a palace still actively used by Royalty can be finished—for even as I write, further alterations are being made before George VI takes up his official residence.

The only noteworthy change that has taken place since 1865 is the new east—main front—façade, which was refaced under the direction of Sir Aston Webb in 1913 to form a "fitting background" to the statue of Queen Victoria which was unveiled by Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany in 1912.

At this time it was found that Blore's Caen stone was so inferior that it required refacing, and experience had by then taught builders in general that

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Portland stone was the most durable for London atmosphere—as recognized many decades before by Christopher Wren.

In order not to disturb existing archways, or even windows, Sir Aston Webb designed a most simple and pleasing exterior, at a cost of £60,000.

To do this the first necessity was to obtain accurate measurements of the building, and from details Portland stone to the amount of 5,757 tons, or 95,000 cubic feet, were cut and delivered. For working and preparing the stonework in the yards, an average of 270 men were employed. Two weeks were spent in erecting the scaffolding, six weeks followed in fixing the main portion of the stone, and the remaining time was spent in painting and cleaning down. The whole job was started and completed between August and the end of October 1913, some 380 men being employed by day and 180 men by night.

CHAPTER XII

BUCKINGHAM PALACE TO-DAY

UNLIKE palaces in other countries of Europe, Buckingham Palace is still the official residence of the ruler of the British Empire, and since the British Isles are still governed under a system of limited monarchy, it follows that Buckingham Palace is not widely known to the general public.

Those great one-time Royal residences of France at Versailles, Fontainebleau, St. Germain, and the Louvre ; of Germany at Potsdam, and the German Emperor's Berlin Palace, the palaces in Dresden, Munich, and other German states ; the Royal palaces in Vienna, and even those in Petrograd and Moscow—not to mention Hampton Court Palace and the Royal Palace, Kensington—are all edifices depicting the past glories of kings.

Nearly all these palaces have been left, as far as possible, in the state in which they were found at the fall of the monarchy, and in most cases form part of the usual scheme of " National Buildings " which every country is proud to show to its population and foreign guests.

Buckingham Palace is therefore somewhat unique in that it is not open to the public, and even those suites which are accessible consist only of State-rooms, used for ceremonial purposes.

The State Apartments are open to the public only

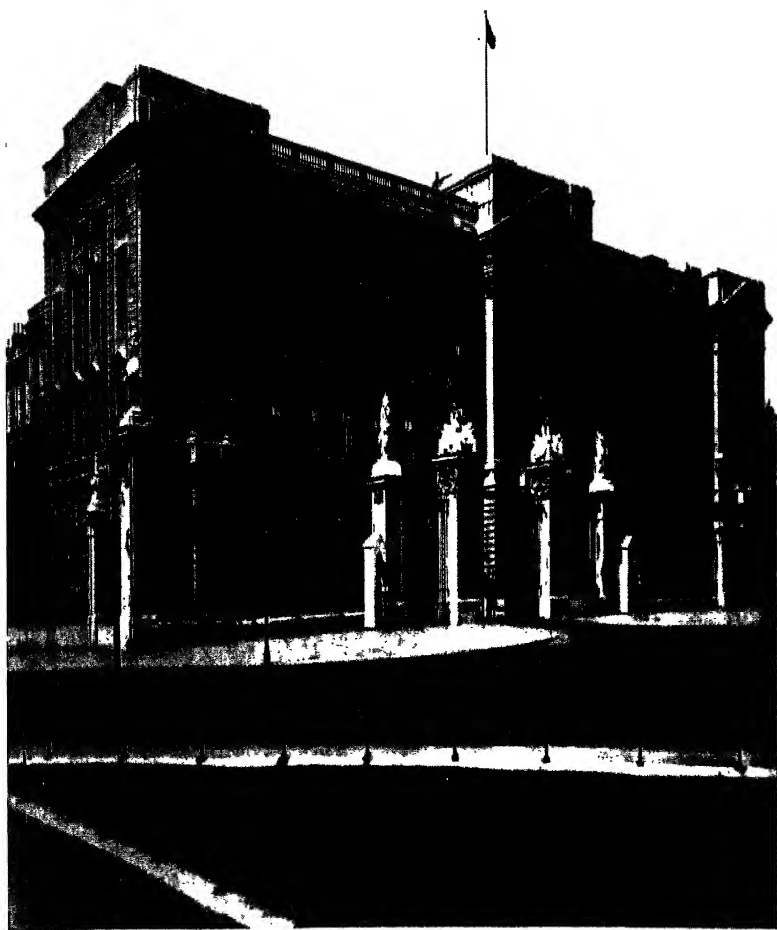
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by permission of the Lord Chamberlain, and then only at certain times of the year, when the Royal Family is not in residence. Not very many take advantage of a visit to the Palace, as permission is not always easy to obtain, and parties of sightseers are not encouraged. The only part of the Palace which is easily accessible is the Royal Stables, with entrance in Buckingham Palace Road. To these stables, and their surrounding parts, hosts of people are taken each year.

To really enjoy the glories of Buckingham Palace, however, one must get an invitation to an evening Court, when the whole of the State Apartments are not only used but are filled with the best-dressed ladies in the land in their Court clothes, accompanied in many instances by their menfolk in full service or civil uniform, according to the rank or title of the wearer. Only on these occasions can one see the real setting of Buckingham Palace to its proper advantage.

Incidentally, the Levees and Courts of our Royal Family are the only functions in the world to-day which bring out that marvellous pageantry of the olden times, for which all palaces were built. This pageantry of past centuries, brought up-to-date as in England, is one of our finest inheritances ; for there is nothing more inspiring or in better taste than our "ceremonial occasions," for which Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace form fitting backgrounds.

A technical description of the interior of Buckingham Palace as it exists to-day—the finest monument



BUCKINGHAM PALACE FROM THE MALL

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of a great nation—has not been the object of this book. In any case, the architectural knowledge required, not to mention the descriptive genius of a compiler of catalogues, is beyond the author's capacity. Those interested in architecture and decoration cannot be better advised than to acquire a copy of a book compiled and issued in 1931 with permission of Her Majesty the Queen Mary, and entitled *Buckingham Palace, its Furniture, Decoration, and History*, published by Country Life Ltd., and containing some hundreds of photographs, as well as a good catalogue of pictures, furniture, and architectural enrichments, carpets, etc. It is only after reading this interesting book that the real glories of our Royal residence can be appreciated.

It is said that the structure and decorations of Buckingham Palace form one of the few complete existing examples between the end of the classic tradition and the beginning of the revival period. Be it remembered that most of the structure, and a lot of the decoration, are due to John Nash and George IV, while other architects have only added a few rooms up to 1860, in somewhat different styles.

As we have seen, King George IV—although certainly not amongst England's greatest kings—left his country a memorial which has lived long after his name has become a mere date in the annals of history.

Quite apart from the architecture of Buckingham Palace, the furniture is on a scale equally lavish, and here we note the tastes of the different inhabitants

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of this Royal residence. To quote the details of many unique pieces which this Palace contains is impossible, and more is the pity, since fittings go a long way to enhance the magnificent beauty of certain parts.

A very large amount of the furniture was collected by Queen Charlotte during the reign of George III, and in fact it is perfectly obvious that Queen Charlotte was a connoisseur in matters appertaining to furniture and fittings. Many of the most beautiful pieces that have ever been made in England were designed under Royal patronage, and to this day form part of Buckingham Palace.

Other pieces have been moved to Hampton Court, where they are open for public inspection in the main apartments of that palace.

George IV apparently inherited a trait for the collection of furniture from his mother—amply proved by the collection which was moved from his one-time residence at Carlton House and the Pavilion, Brighton, to form part of the existing suites at Buckingham Palace and the Royal Palace, Kensington.

Queen Victoria and King Edward VII each added their personal ideas to the then existing decorations, but it may be said that their influence on the furnishing and decorative side is not very evident.

It has been left to Her Majesty Queen Mary to show her remarkable talent in the classification and grouping of furniture in Buckingham Palace.

Furniture of the best French periods abounds.

Louis XV and Louis XVI are well represented,

besides the works of most of our best English makers of the eighteenth century. A great deal of this furniture has been rearranged by Queen Mary, who has also redecorated certain rooms formerly decorated in transitional periods around 1850. Some of these new schemes have shown the Queen's admiration for lacquer, and several examples of Chinese and Indian lacquer of the very best workmanship have gone to redecorate rooms in the household part of the Palace, as well as certain sections of the principal corridor on the east façade.

Much of the furniture thus displaced, and some of the fine china, has been put around the galleries and corridors of the household section.

Buckingham Palace is also famous for its pictures, which vie with almost any art gallery in the world.

The one official "Picture Gallery" contains about 150 masterpieces of the Dutch school—said to be the finest collection of its kind in England, and brought together by George IV.

This gallery, 150 feet long, forms only a very small part of the Royal collection of pictures. All the rooms in the semi-State Apartments, and the guest-rooms, have priceless pictures on the walls, in accordance with the style and period to which they belong. Thus we have the French Schools from Louis XIV onwards, Spanish seventeenth-century, Italian, and British Schools.

These are all separate from the collection of Royal portraits which adorn the official State-rooms and staircases, and depict almost every member of the Royal Families from George III onwards. The

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Duke of Buckingham, with his wife and family, is also in this collection. In most cases the paintings are the work of the best contemporary English artists, and are of very considerable value.

The Royal collection of clocks is unique. The whole collection consists of many hundreds of specimens of all types, which are at present disposed about the Palace in State-rooms, semi-State-rooms, household rooms, and the bedchamber corridor, to the best advantage.

George III started the collection in the same thorough way that he started the Royal Library. He took a great interest in clock-making, and actually worked on new forms of clock actions and combinations himself.

It is natural, therefore, that the best clock-makers of a great period were constantly in and out of the Queen's House of those days. George IV bought his own clocks—and, as we have seen, the best was just good enough for him. As a result the collection is unrivalled, and represents the best classic French pieces, a lot of ormolu filigree, many in carved marble, and many with gilt and bronze figures.

The rival English and French Schools of Clock-makers are equally representative, those of the English School being made for George III, while George IV had made or acquired an equal number of French pieces of the most perfect mechanism.

Thomas Tompion, 1639–1717, the father of English clock-makers, is particularly prominent with masterpieces dating roughly from 1670 to 1710. His works comprise specimens of long-case twelve-

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month Astronomical Clocks (Grandfather clocks), and the usual mantel clocks besides. The mechanism of these clocks is still perfect to-day, and, indeed, they command a price running into thousands of pounds sterling whenever one of them comes into the auction rooms.

Other famous men who have contributed to the Palace collection are : Pinckbeck, Frodsham, Gray, Norton, and the three Vulliamys ; while amongst the French masters are : Bréguet, Godon, Lépine, Kinable, Le Faucheur, Gavelle, Moinet, and Sotiau.

A number of the clocks of good ordinary mechanism of one hundred years ago were specially encased by order of George IV to harmonize with the decorations of the Palace, while others, chiefly of the George III period, have unusual movements, and are exquisitely balanced from the point of view of the clock-maker.

One clock in particular, in the Music Room, was designed by George III. It stands 2 feet 8 inches high, and has four sides encased in tortoiseshell, with ormolu and silver mounts. It has groups of Corinthian columns at the corners, and is surmounted by a dome with eight small tortoiseshell vases.

The four dials show the time of the day (with an extra hand for solar time) ; a planetarium ; the tides at the leading ports around England ; and the signs of the Zodiac.

The splendour of a room is always enhanced by good chandeliers, and Buckingham Palace is certainly not lacking in this respect. Here again

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George IV spent a vast sum in fittings worthy of his Palace, as the estimates submitted to Parliament have shown.

As examples—the Throne Room has a central lustre 8 feet in diameter, with 54 lights, while the four corner lustres each have 36 lights, or about 200 lamp fittings in all. The State Ballroom—of a later period—is also well lit, while the Music Room, Guard Room, White Drawing-room and Green Drawing-room all have examples of George IV's choice. Most of the ceiling fittings are of the glass drop prism type, so common to the seventeenth century, and are now wired for electric light.

Rare china is also a feature at the Palace.

The Bow Room, best known to the public attending Royal Garden Parties as the Assembly Room, has a part of the Royal collection of Sèvres china. A lot of fine pieces of Sèvres are to be found in different rooms and corridors, while those rooms which used to form the Royal Library (now the Household Dining-room) have several valuable sets of dinner services arranged on some of the one-time library shelves. The Royal Library was moved to Windsor by William IV.

And so we can compile a catalogue of the contents of Buckingham Palace—its marble walls, its marble and parquet floors, its painted walls and ceilings, its pictures, glass, china, woodwork—and its doors. Yes, the doors of the Palace deserve at least one short sentence, for they are amongst the best to be seen anywhere—those giving entrance to the various rooms comprising the State Apartments being

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masterpieces of their types. On State occasions these doors are very naturally often open, so that some of their beauty and workmanship is lost in the glamour and excitement of the occasion.

In passing, we might note that the doors throughout the State-rooms are 12 feet high and 7 feet wide, and made of Spanish mahogany, mounted in ormolu, and fitted with long panels of looking-glass. Over each glass panel are designs in ormolu surmounted with the Royal Crown, surrounded by the rays of the Garter Star.

And now for a short and very incomplete account of the layout of Buckingham Palace.

Standing with one's back to the Victoria Memorial, and facing the Palace, is the east façade—facing almost due east. The Palace is a square building, with a large interior quadrangle, hardly seen by the public, and is therefore composed of four sides, each with its separate use. Entrance is made past the sentries at either of the side gates which form part of the main railings. The middle gates, right in front of the main arch which goes through the front façade, are reserved for Royalty only, and then only on special occasions.

Roughly, the State-rooms form the southern and western wings—to the left and behind as one stands facing the Palace, but out of sight of the front of the building and facing over Buckingham Palace Road and the Royal Gardens.

There are 12 State-rooms occupying the first floor of the south and west sides—overlooking the gardens

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—and reached by a fine marble staircase mounting from a main marble hall in the west wing. The west wing is reached by going through the centre arches and proceeding to the far side of the quadrangle.

To the north—or on the right as one faces the Palace—is the north side, which contains the apartments of Their Majesties. On the front—eastern—façade is one room with a balcony at the middle of the first floor, from which Their Majesties show themselves to their subjects on special occasions. On each side of this room are guest-rooms.

On the ground-floor, east façade, are two small entrances. That on the left (south) is the Visitors' entrance, that on the right (north) is the Privy Purse entrance, and used by members of the Household. The ground-floor rooms on the south side are used by members of the Household, and as dining-rooms for the Household. The ground-floor west façade faces the gardens, and contains, besides the Marble Hall and Marble Corridor and Bow Room, rooms used for semi-State occasions during the last reigns, and for more formal State occasions during part of the reign of Queen Victoria.

The second floor of the Palace is occupied by some of the Royal Princes, and by the Ladies and Gentlemen-in-Waiting on Their Majesties.

The Royal Chapel is built out on the garden aspect of the south side, while the conservatory (now a racquets court) forms the corresponding wing to the north of the garden aspect. The new east façade was superimposed in 1912; the west façade,

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overlooking the gardens, remains as Nash left it in 1830.

The Grand Staircase and Central Hall, in the middle of the west side, are in exactly the same position as the similar features of Buckingham House, and it is known that this staircase of Buckingham House was built in the same position as that of Arlington House before it.

The Royal Kitchens abut upon the south side, and the stables are to the south-west. The Royal Gardens have a vast expanse of lawn—one of the largest single lawns in existence—as a main feature, and contain many trees as a background, a small artificial lake (fed by the Tyburn of olden days), several mounds covered with shrubs and flowers, and some tennis courts near the lake, but almost out of sight of the house. The Palace west façade is separated from the grass lawns by a gravel flat.

The disposition of the State-rooms on the first floor is as follows : The west side, west front (facing the gardens), from north to south contains—the Royal Closet, the White Drawing-room, the Music Room (with bay window and centrally situated on the west façade), the Blue Drawing-room and the State Dining-room (which latter measures 74 × 34 feet). These rooms occupy a west frontage of about 200 feet or more.

On the same side, but facing east over the inner quadrangle, are the Guard Chamber (opposite the Royal Closet and White Drawing-room), the Green Drawing-room (opposite the Music Room),

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forming the centre of the block ; and the Throne Room, which is 65 feet long, opposite the State Dining-room and the Blue Drawing-room.

These two rows of apartments on the west side are connected longitudinally by the Picture Gallery and the Silk Tapestry Room. The Picture Gallery is about 150 feet long, and contains the collection of Dutch Artists, while the Silk Tapestry Room—hung with seventeenth-century French silk gobelins—connects the Picture Gallery in the west wing with the Promenade Gallery in the south wing.

The south side contains the State Ballroom—about 120 feet long by 60 feet wide by 45 feet high—which is approached from the west through the State Dining-room and through the Promenade Gallery. East of the Ballroom again is the State Supper-room, which brings us almost round to the east or front of the Palace.

On the ground floor, west side, are what are now known as the semi-State Apartments. They consist of the Bow Room, centrally situated under the Music Room, with view over the gardens. To each side of the Bow Room are the 1855 Room and the 1844 Room—used very much in the days of Queen Victoria. To the north of the west side, past the 1844 Room, are several small drawing-rooms and guest-rooms, while to the south of the west side, and under the State Dining-room, are the Household Breakfast- and Dining-rooms.

Opposite the Bow Room, and facing the inner quadrangle, is the Grand Hall, which is the main entrance to the Palace. Running the

length of the west wing is the Marble Hall—about 200 feet long—immediately below the Picture Gallery.

There is an entrance with access to Buckingham Palace Road on the south side of the Palace, which connects with the Marble Hall and Grand Staircase through the lower southern corridor. This entrance is used on official occasions by “Privileged Persons” who have an *entrée* to the Court.

On State ceremonial occasions the procedure is for the Royal Family, with any Royal Guests, conducted by the Great Officers of the Household and attended by the Ladies- and Gentlemen-in-Waiting, to foregather in the Royal Closet, pass to the White Drawing-room, and then through the Music Room and Blue Drawing-room to the State Dining-room and Ballroom. For a banquet the procession proceeds by way of the Blue Drawing-room and the East Gallery, entering the Ballroom by the doorway at the north-east end. At the conclusion of the banquet the procession passes by way of the State Dining-room and the Blue Drawing-room to the Music Room.

The Ministers’ Staircase is situated at the north end of the Grand Hall, and gives access to the semi-State rooms and the north wing. It is used by members of the Cabinet or visiting Ambassadors when seeking audience with the King.

This résumé has purposely been kept as short as possible, for to enter into even the slightest description of decorations, ceilings, mantelpieces, furniture,

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or paintings would at once involve chapter on chapter.

Suffice to say that from humble origins has sprung the one and only Buckingham Palace—the official residence of His Majesty the King, Defender of the Faith, Ruler of Great Britain and Ireland and the Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, and a controlling influence in the ways and happenings of this world.

EPILOGUE

THE history of Buckingham Palace is a continuation of the history of Goring House, while Goring House, in turn, used to form part of the Manor of Ebury back to the time of Henry VIII.

The "Domesday Book" (1086) refers to this historic part of London as the Manor of Eia, which was part of the holding of the "Abbots of Westminster"—some 1,090 acres in extent—all of which was confiscated at the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539.

My object in elaborating the above paragraph in the many pages that precede is based on two primary reasons. Firstly, it seems to me that the old order of things is giving way a little too rapidly to the new, which makes us inclined to forget the trials and troubles of those former generations from which we all come ; and secondly, what could be more appropriate to the proprietors of the Goring Hotel than to resurrect, after 300 years, the almost forgotten glories of Goring House which actually existed in 1632 on the site of the present Buckingham Palace ?

Actually the first knowledge of Lord George Goring of Charles I (Royalist) fame came to our ears in 1921. A not unnatural curiosity suggested that we go farther into the matter, and a study of books and maps relative to the Grosvenor Estate, and other properties, from William the Conqueror in 1066 down to the present day, certainly gives a

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clear idea of the interesting history of Mayfair and Belgravia.

The incentive to elaborate the history of these parts is the more strongly urged in view of the amazing sequence of circumstances connected with our own part of the Goring family.

In 1908 a certain Mr. O. R. Goring had formed a habit of walking from Kensington, down Grosvenor Place, and round Buckingham Palace. It came to his knowledge that a certain number of houses in Ebury Street were for disposal, and despite the extreme poverty of the property, he decided that the neighbourhood was ripe for development, and foresaw the growing importance of Victoria—which actually took place a few years later, when the continental train services were transferred from Charing Cross to Victoria Station.

A part of the space thus acquired was left open for garden purposes, and on the remaining part an hotel was built, and opened on March 2nd, 1910. At the time it set a standard in hotel luxury, for it was actually the first hotel in the world to be equipped with a private bathroom to every bedroom, central heating in every bedroom, a telephone in each room, as well as a lobby from the bedroom proper to the corridor to obviate outside noises.

To-day this does not sound so very remarkable, yet even now there are very few hotels in Europe that can make the same boast. The majority of hotels claiming a bathroom to every bedroom build a bathroom between two rooms. Their claim may be accurate to a point, but they have not even now

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got the same number of bathrooms as bedrooms. Even visitors' servants' rooms have their own private bathroom at the "Goring," while those members of the staff who sleep in the hotel have hot and cold running water in their bedrooms.

Similarly, up to 1925 most establishments maintained that to heat the hotel corridors and public rooms complied entirely with the requirements of "central heating." Inversely—to heat the bedrooms was to lose money through the decrease in visitors' requirements of "coal-fires" in bedrooms—which had always been an extra.

To be ahead of the times is liable to cause trouble, and many unexpected difficulties were encountered at the outset. For instance, most people had not been educated to a bathroom attached to a bedroom, with the result that they were sceptical as to the sanitary conditions. To have a w.c. in your bathroom was utterly impossible, while central heating to supplant open fires was not considered healthy in those days.

These troubles were all successfully overcome, however, and following the war period, when the hotel was taken over as the American Army Headquarters, a new addition was built on the existing roof in 1924, while in 1926 five further houses were acquired for the space on which to build a new wing, thus completing the island site facing Ebury Street from Eaton Lane to Victoria Square.

I wish to take the present opportunity to thank Major Trollope and Mr. Henry A. Glover (of

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Messrs. Geo. Trollope & Sons) and the Librarian of the Westminster Public Library for their interest and help in elucidating details.

The coincidence is that Mr. O. R. Goring in 1908 had no knowledge whatsoever of the history of the ground he had purchased : the Goring Hotel being named after the founder, uninfluenced by past events.

